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4

可愛い女の子に
攻略されるのは
好きですか？
Do you like
to be captured
by a cute girl?

GA文庫



可愛い女の子に
攻略されるのは
好きですか?

Do you like
to be captured
by a cute girl?







「……いけないわたくしに、
お仕置き、してくださいませ……」

静川凜花 しずかわりんか



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Prologue

The night before the pre-honeymoon with Rinka. Inside the Kitamikado Family residence, Mikado was still in a heated discussion with the head of the family. Normally, he would never set foot into the private office of such, but now he was prostrating himself in with a beautiful posture, as the head had his back to him.

“...Father, I still feel that this trip with Rinka is too premature.”

No gesture came from the head, besides an arrogant snort.

“Even the day before, you still approach me with that? You don’t know when to give up.”

“Rinka and I are still in high school. We are in a time period where we have to focus on our future. Such a pre-marriage trip could have a bad influence for the two of us. What would happen if we crossed the line, and created a child?”

“No problem. We have already taken care of the procedures in case an event like this would happen. You will be able to enjoy your student lives either way.”

“However...”

Mikado tried to bite in again, but the head didn’t let him, as he just nodded along mysteriously.

“I know...You don’t have...any confidence, do you?”

“Confidence?”

Mikado was at a loss as to what the head was trying to say. As the successor of the renowned Kitamikado Family, he had confidence in his own ability and talent. Be it studies, martial arts, and his world view.

“Fret not, I will entrust you with this.”

The head opened the sandalwood drawer, and took out an object that looked like Japanese-style bookbinding. It looked like some rather ancient document, as the pages and cover were worn down. Written on the cover was [Kitamikado Family's Book of Secret Techniques].

"Secret techniques...? There had been something else besides the quintessences of our family that I had learned already?" Mikado flipped over the pages, as his heart started to beat faster in anticipation.

Written there...No, depicted on these pages were drawings with a man and woman in various positions. In short, it was a pornographic print.

"Use this to self-study. If you do, you surely won't bring shame to the Kitamikado Family."

"Father...?"

Yet again, Mikado was clueless about the intentions behind his father's words. Neither did he expect to receive a porn magazine from his own father. Not to mention that it was the type he had spotted before in a nearby convenience store. Naturally, he had never glanced inside. Having been raised as far away as possible from any sort of eroticism or love, even any sort of erotic movie from the Edo period was too stimulating for him.

"I can understand your feelings. Even I didn't have any confidence when I was your age. I was worried that I would stop looking like the Hero I was in the eyes of your mother. But, thanks to this instruction manual that has been passed down by the men of our family, I managed to spend a perfect first night, and succeeded in implementing—"

"I didn't need to get any details about the day I was created!"

"If you have a mind to it, you can do it, and if not, you can't."

"Giving me a motivational proverb doesn't help me!"

If you took out any circumstances, this was basically a father telling his son how the birds and bees worked. Although communication

with your family is essential, Mikado wished that they had at least kept a certain level of wall between them.

“Am I in the wrong? I judged that you had sexual worries in that regard, so I was thinking of teaching you a thing or two.”

“Even if I did have such worries, I don’t want my parents to give me any guidance...”

“I judged it my duty as the head of the family to teach you with hand and foot...”

“This is just getting worse!”

Was this because he had entered a rebellious phase, or did everyone experience the same? Either way, he couldn’t accept this. If possible, he would have ignored it completely, to get back on topic. At the same time, the head of the family narrowed his eyes at Mikado.

“Then tell me, why are you so obstinate in avoiding this trip with the young daughter of Shizukawa-dono? I sincerely hope I am wrong in this, but you don’t have any other girl you are interested in, do you?”

“No, that’s...” Mikado’s words were stuck in his throat.

He finally managed to have the doubts about his relationship with Kisa get cleared up, so he would have hoped to avoid instigating any more distrust from his father. The fake war with Kisa and drained a lot of his mental strength after all.

“Then, there should be no reason to avoid this trip. I doubt you would find anything about the young Shizukawa daughter unsatisfactory. Beautiful, kind, a well-done young lady.”

“Well, I agree with that...”

That’s exactly why Mikado was so afraid. Spending a long time together with a charming young girl like her, he might just give in at the end of it all.

“Either way, this topic is already written in stone. Do well in remembering...The Kitamikado Family doesn’t allow to be festive in

feeble feelings, but to raise proper love.”

The head got up from his seat, and shone his fierce gaze down at Mikado. Overwhelming pressure and confidence didn't allow Mikado to bring any more words of resistance.

At the same time, in the Shizukawa Residence, the private room of the young daughter. Rinka had a great amount of clothes strayed around the suitcase for her travels.

—Would Mikado-sama think of me as cute if I wore this...?

Standing in front of the full-body mirror, she was coordinating her outfits. This upcoming trip was a once in a lifetime battle. With her biggest rival gone, she could focus solely on winning over Mikado. In the time where the other girls couldn't bother her, she had to grasp his heart. To achieve this, every weapon had to be used at its fullest potential.

Right this moment, Rinka was trying on underwear with laces. She thought it was too bold at first, but it would all be worth it if it had some effect on Mikado. If she wore this, even the mentally strong Mikado would surely give in to the excitement.

Before, she had seen Mikado's well-built body in the public bath, and just by remembering his muscles and dependable back, Rinka felt her body grow hot.



“Ahh, Mikado-sama...you can ‘t...This has to be done at night...But, if you were to wish for it, then I wouldn’t mind it right away...”

Her fantasies ran wild, as she Rinka collapsed onto the bed, writhing in pleasure. She was breathing in an erotic manner, as she tightly embraced her Mikado hugging pillow. Things like this had been repeating for a while now, as she didn’t make any progress with her preparations. However, time wasn’t limitless, so she stood up, both

hands on her cheeks to calm herself down.

“...This isn’t good. If I don’t sleep soon, I might fall asleep in Mikado-sama’s arms...All that’s left is...this.” She took out a small bottle from the dresser.

The inside was filled with a seductive red liquid. Although it should have been safely closed, you could still smell the faint scent from it. It was an aphrodisiac specifically created and brought here from overseas by one of the many trading corps under the Shizukawa Conglomerate. Though she felt a bit hesitant to go so far as to use an aphrodisiac on the person she loved, she had it checked for absolute safety before, and at this point in time, she couldn’t choose her methods any longer.

If they went as far as to do something that cannot be undone, Mikado would surely guarantee Rinka’s happiness. After all, that was the kind of person he was, diligent, and kind. That’s why...

“Mikado-sama...I hope you are prepared...”

Rinka stuffed the small bottle deep in her underwear, and put it both into the suitcase. In her chest, the desire and also anticipation to finally have Mikado in her grasp was burning as strong as ever.

Meanwhile, Kisa was panicking. She was nervously walking up and down inside her private room found in the Nanjou Residence, holding her head in despair.

“Ahhhh, what should I do?! Mikado is a boy, so if he stays with Shizukawa-san for too long, something weird will definitely happen! Once they come home, he’ll be a father!”

Though children were not born at such ridiculous speed, any logical thought and reasoning were blown away because of the panic. From Kisa’s point of view, the two of them were a good fit. Both were a beauty to behold, belonging to families that would bring light to Japan. Even talking purely about character and air to them, they were a much better combination than Kisa was with Mikado.

Meanwhile, Mizuki was lying on the bed next to her, flapping her

legs up and down, as she laughed heartily.

“This time, your beloved Mikado-kun might really get stolen by Rinka-chan after all~!”

“Shut up! I’m trying to think of something so that it doesn’t end up like that!” Kisa ran her fingers through her hair in a burst of anger.

“So you’re not going to deny the fact that you love him~?”

“Tease me some more and I’ll pull out every tooth in your rotten mouth!”

“Well, that might save me the trouble from having to brush them every day!”

“At least be a bit scared! Why do you see everything so positive!”

“I could brag about this to my classmates!”

“Having no teeth is nothing to brag about!” Kisa had to take breaths of air, after retorting endlessly on Mizuki’s positive mental attitude, as she just sat down on the rim of the bed.

“Yay~! Onee-chan will sleep together with me!”

“I don’t have the time to sleep!” Kisa took the blanket to suffocate Mizuki.

The latter however mistook this as just normal playing, as she caused a ruckus. To shut up this little sister of hers, Kisa most likely had to fill Mizuki’s mouth with cement.

In the corner of the room stood Sigma, who was ordered here by Kisa because of an emergency situation, who was watching the sisters’ playing (or rather manslaughter), as she yawned without restraint.

“Sigma! Blow up the Shizukawa Family’s residence! Right now!”

“...Kisa-sama, were you that much of an idiot?” Sigma retorted mercilessly.

“I’m not an idiot, I’m a genius!”

“Alright, then let me rephrase it...Do you turn into an idiot whenever the topic involves that shitty Kitamikado brat?”

“I keep telling you I’m not an idiot! Now that it comes to this, I have to destroy the entire world! Before Mikado gets lured in by that witch, I’ll turn the world into an atomic wasteland! With no more hotels around, everything will be fine!”

“Calm down already. Take my gun, put the muzzle against your head, and pull the trigger, that’ll help you calm down.”

“That will kill me more than anything!”

Kisa was painfully aware of Rinka’s strengths. She didn’t seem too strong at anything strategic, but she is able to directly attack the boy she likes, and her eyes are always radiating with desire.

Meanwhile, Sigma carefully observed Kisa.

“...Kisa-sama, who are you?”

“Eh...? I-I mean, I am Nanjou Kisa? The Empress of Darkness, and the successor of the Nanjou Family. The one controls all the darkness and terror in the world!” Kisa said in confidence, one hand on her chest.

“Right? Then, I don’t think there is a need to panic like that. This is the time for you to show your skill. At times like these, you have to simply conquer everything you want.”

Sigma’s words had an odd sense of persuasiveness to them. Thanks to them, Kisa remembered exactly who she was. She would get everything she desired, granting all her wishes herself, that is the way of the Nanjou. No matter how powerful Mikado’s fiancée may be, she could not afford to lose against her.

Kisa took a deep breath, as her shoulders relaxed.

“It seems like I lost my cool there. I will not let that girl do what she wants. She will have to learn the punishment of making me her enemy.”

“That’s my Kisa-sama. Order me as you desire.” Sigma snickered.

Various incidents on the night before the pre-honeymoon would eventually lead to chaos once again.

Chapter 1: Seaside Seduction

Eleven in the morning, at the international airport.

Mikado stepped out of the private Kitamikado limousine, greeted by the already waiting Rinka. Making sure that he wouldn't bother any incoming traffic, he carefully opened the door to take out his big traveling suitcase. Spotting Mikado, Rinka's eyes lit up in joy.

"Mikado-sama! So you really came!"

"Yeah, sorry for making you wait."

He didn't exactly have the choice to stay at home. That would end up as too much of a ruckus between the two families.

"No no, I am the one at fault for getting too excited and coming here early. I could not allow myself to be late for the first day of this precious trip together with Mikado-sama, so I came here before morning."

"You did an all-nighter here?!"

"It wasn't an all-nighter by any means. If I don't have Mikado-sama's hugging—Excuse me, if I am not in my own room, I cannot sleep."

"My what? What did you just say?"

"Nothing at all." Rinka shook her head.

"No, I definitely heard something. My pudding or something?"

"I would give everything to get a taste of Mikado-sama's pudding."

"Are you sure you're okay? You're not lacking some sleep, right?"

"Nothing you have to worry about, Mikado-sama." Rinka showed an energetic smile.

Mikado felt like he heard something he definitely should not ignore,

so much that he felt a cold sweat run down his back, but Rinka shows no signs that anything was off, so he had to give up.

“...Then, let’s go.”

“Yes! Onward to our early honeymoon!” Rinka smiled up at Mikado, as she clung to his arm.

From her usual radiating black hair drifted a sweet flower scent. She wore a pure-looking white one-piece. Together with her upwards gaze at Mikado, as well as the white choker that looked like a dog’s collar, she was emitting her dependence and belonging to Mikado at full force. No matter how you looked at it, she was the personification of cuteness.



Having been blessed with such a wonderful fiancée, Mikado was a lucky man. Not to mention that she truly loved him.

...Can I...continue to reject her...? Will I be able to take this...?

Mikado felt anxious. The impact and attack power of Rinka was fierce this early in the morning. What would happen if he relaxed even a bit?

“Mikado-sama...are you being conscious of me right now?”

“.....!”

Mikado felt his ears grow hot. Rinka saw that happen, and smiled happily.

“...I’m glad. I worked really hard after all. So that you would think of me as cute.”

“I-Is that so.”

“Yes.” Rinka clung to Mikado’s arm with even more force, as she walked next to him.

That one was a failure. If she catches on that Mikado got damaged with something, she will definitely keep going in that. He relaxed a bit because he wasn’t dealing with Kisa, but in a certain sense, Rinka was still a participant of the love game. Hence, Mikado decided to stay a bit more focussed, a female staff member from the airport walked towards them.

“Young lady, Kitamikado-sama. Welcome. Let me guide you inside your machine.” Flashing a perfectly created customer smile, she bowed at an impeccable angle.

Behind her stood two bulky-looking male staff members, who immediately proceeded to carry Mikado’s and Rinka’s luggage.

“Clean arrangements as always, huh.”

Rinka nodded to Mikado’s words.

“For this trip, the Shizukawa Group has organized the flight and hotel to the best of our ability, so most of the staff here knows about our situation, giving us the best service possible.”

“I’m thankful for that, but...”

Mikado looked at his surroundings. And then, he caught on. The security guards at the airport, the staff at the counter, the ones at the reception, the old lady on cleaning duty, the ones standing in the

shops, countless eyes were directed over at Mikado and Rinka. Even the presumably normal customers were looking over at them as a result.

—No way, right? Yeah, not happening, definitely not.

Mikado kept telling himself. That was how nervous he actually felt. That should all just be a pure coincidence. Even the old couple sitting on the nearby bench was acting like they were giving through transmissions as they talked into their sleeves. Or the children running past them were oddly fixated on the two of them, as they passed them several times.

Mikado felt a chill.

“Did something happen?”

“No...nothing at all.” Being asked by Rinka, Mikado shook his head.

“Is there anything you feel anxious about?”

“I’m fine, I’m fine.”

He couldn’t think too deeply into it. Though the ability to think has brought forth humanity in many ways, it could also lead to their vision being clouded. She wasn’t Kisa, so he doubted Rinka would go that far.

Mikado and Rinka were guided by the staff, making their way towards the deeper parts of the airport. Being political and commercial giants of the Kitamikado and Shizukawa Family, the procedures were done at lightning speed. Hence, after around thirty minutes later, they boarded the Shizukawa Family’s private jet, resting their bodies on the interior sofa.

The inside of the jet was awfully wide, possessing a bar, a big screen resembling one you’d see in a home theater.

“That’s the Shizukawa Family for you, a comfortable private machine.”

“I am delighted that you enjoy it as such. For this very pre-

honeymoon with Mikado-sama, we had this on a special order, so that it would get us in the mood for what's to come. I shall remind you, there are no cameras inside this room, and it is equally equipped with sound-proof walls, so whatever you might do, nobody will hear a thing of it."

"Hm."

Rinka's eyes were sparkling as she snuck glances at Mikado.

"Whatever you might do, nobody will hear a thing of it."

"Hm."

"Whatever you might..."

"I get it already! What kind of expectations do you have of me?!"

"Eh...that's...I want Mikado-sama to get out his sturdy thing and..."

"That's not what I meant! It was just a figure of speech!"

Mikado really couldn't calm down next to the furiously blushing Rinka. She was a lady of noble background, and yet she was missing some necessary restraint in her desires. Comparing her to Kisa, she was the exact opposite, as she moved directly towards said desires, which made her just as terrifying.

At the same time as he thought that, the private jet started accelerating. The scenery outside passed by them faster and faster, as the floating feeling set in.

"...!"

Rinka moved her body towards Mikado.

"You're bad with planes?"

"Y-Yes...during the time we are in the air, I am perfectly fine, but during the departure and landing, I just cannot help but feel nervous...a lot of accidents tend to happen after all..."

“Then we could have just taken the bullet train and stayed in the country for this trip?”

“Of course not. With that, I would not be able to stay alone with Mikado-sama. I want to create many and many wonderful memories with you...” Her body was slightly shaking, and tears started building up in the corner of her eyes, almost as if she really was scared.

“Apologies. You do not like me clinging to you like this, do you...”

“No...”

How could he ask her to get away. Not after seeing how happy she was to be together with him.

A bit of time had passed, and as the jet was safely in the air, Rinka was still Mikado’s arms. Together with her sweet scent, and softness all over, Mikado felt like his heart was starting to race faster and faster.

“...Are you...okay now? I’d like to stretch my body a bit.”

“.....”

No response came from the girl.

“...Rinka?”

All he could hear were her soft sleeping noises. She must have been tired from preparing all of this, not to mention that she arrived at the airport in the dead of the night.

“Can’t help it.”

Mikado slipped away from Rinka’s body, softly putting her body to rest on the sofa. The hem of her one-piece was flipped up, which allowed a glance of her thighs, so he quickly pulled it down again. In this isolated atmosphere, her snow white skin was poison for Mikado. Hence, he picked up a nearby blanket, and put it over her body.

In order to save Rinka from falling on the ground during the shaking mid-air, he sat down next to her, riding a book in the meantime. He figured it would end up as a long trip, he prepared some books he

could use to entertain himself with.

After around an hour had passed, Rinka opened her eyes. She checked her surroundings, and frantically pushed up her body.

“I-I am so sorry! I didn’t mean to sleep like this!” She looked close to breaking out in tears, as she lowered her head towards Mikado.

“Don’t mind it. It’s a long trip, so sleeping a bit isn’t going to hurt anybody.”

“You will not...get angry at me...?”

“Why would I get angry? Would you do that if I fell asleep in front of you? That sounds kinda scary.” Mikado shrugged as he smiled.

“U-Um...did you put this blanket on me...?”

“Yeah. Would be bad if you got a cold during our trip, right?”

“If I were to catch a cold, would you not be able to come home faster, Mikado-sama? I am sure you must dislike this very trip as a whole, and Nanjou-san is probably more important...” Rinka sat on the sofa still, her small hands shaking.

Seeing this saddened sight of hers, Mikado’s chest hurt. He felt horrible for getting her hopes up, but lying to her would make him pathetic of a man.

“It’s true that I’d like to return home as quickly as possible.”

“T-That makes sense...Being together with me is not fun in the slightest...” Rinka bit her lip.

“But, I don’t hate being together with you, Rinka. I’m just...worried...If we stayed together for too long, I might not be able to keep myself in check.” Mikado awkwardly scratched his cheek.

“Eh...”

“W-Well, anyway. You were looking forward to this trip, so I’ll join you from the first day to the last. Not to mention that I’d feel bad if

you caught a cold.

Hearing this, Rinka almost fainted from happiness.

“Mikado-sama...! Ahh, how kind you are...! You really are my destined husband! Please, do not hold back! I have prepared myself to take in your everything!”

“H-Hey...”

His fiance clung to him in a daze, leaving Mikado in trouble. He could not return the embrace, but neither could he just push her away. Either way, until the sun was setting outside, Rinka showed no signs of separating.

Eventually, they made it to the resort island of Micronesia. At the southern airport that could be called the paradise of everlasting summer, the private jet of the Shizukawa Family landed safely. The second the ramp opened down the plane, a sweet aroma of tropical fruits arrived at Mikado's nose. Beneath the bright blue sky that could blow away all your worries, the coconut trees stood tall.

Entering the car that had been waiting for them, Mikado and Rinka drove to their lodging. Surviving the horrible street conditions for about an hour, they eventually arrived at the seaside hotel, immediately greeted by a carry boy to take care of their luggage. The hotel itself was rather luxurious-looking, built with the finest materials as it reached up towards the sky. The entrance halls were surrounded by glass, with a grand piano in the dead center of it.

“This is pretty modern, huh.”

“A lot of Japanese people visit this place as tourists after all. Before, this hotel was meant as lodging for any deals with the local businesses and the Shizukawa Group.”

“Makes sense that it's this pompous.”

Surrounded by glass once again, the two of them took the elevator to the highest floor. What was prepared for them was an entire suite that filled a whole floor of the building. From the windows acting as walls, you had a beautiful view on the sea, with a big terrace outside,

equipped with a table and chairs. Past the living room with tiger fur as a carpet was the bedroom, blocked off by suspicious-looking curtains.

“Mikado-sama! Come over here! Look at this wonderful bedroom!”

And, just as Mikado envisioned, or rather feared—

Greeting him in the bedroom was a giant bed made for two, showing no other places where one could rest for the night. Normally, you’d have a sofa or anything of that sort in a living room, but that was nowhere to be found. Instead, on the pure white sheets, he found hibiscus flowers. Rinka saw this, and folded her arms.

“How romantic...So this is where Mikado-sama and I will make our love bloom...”

“There won’t be anything blooming, okay!”

“The first time can be done without love! Ravish me with your lust! The love will come after!”

“You’re a bit too positive for my tastes!”

“Life is long, so maybe if you’re 80, you will finally fall in love with me.”

“I barely think about my future in 30 days!”

Mikado found himself worried that Rinka might be fine with throwing away her body a bit too easily. However, Rinka was completely ignoring that, as she just pulled in Mikado’s hand, tearing him to the bathroom. Then again, rather than a room, it was the size of an actual public bath. Water pouring out from dolphin statues, filling the large stone-plastered bath. Beyond the windows, he could even see an open-air bath, so if one wanted to relax in the evening, he would not find anything lacking.

“This bath looks truly comforting. Mikado-sama and I will be doing something even more comforting later...I cannot wait!” Rinka narrowed her eyes, letting out an excited breath.

Seeing her intoxicated expression, Mikado felt his own heartbeat accelerate. Even if he knew that he shouldn't, his hands remembered the soft sensation of her body.

“...Rinka. You have to be a bit more careful. You're a Yamato Nadeshiko, so you have to speak that way.”

“I only act this way in front of Mikado-sama.”

“Ugh...”

Mikado received even further damage.

“Mikado-sama, do you enjoy a wife who looks forward to the nightly pleasures...?” Rinka gazed up at Mikado like a puppy afraid to be thrown out.

In order not to lose against, Mikado strained himself, trying his best not to lose against that.

“I'm telling you to treasure yourself a bit more. Why do you think humans wear clothes? In order to maintain their dignity. If you recklessly reveal your skin, and easily sell yourself, you lower your own value. Like an animal. You have to keep in mind who you are.”

“Mikado-sama...are you angry at me...?”

“Well...”

Mikado did think he may have gone a bit too far. Rinka raised her head with radiating eyes, and tightly grasped his Mikado's hand.

“I like it when Mikado-sama is angry at me! Scold me more! Hurt me more!”

“Why do you want to go through bad memories!”

“It is the proof of Mikado-sama, and I want you to grave them into my body! But, if it was your order, then I would not mind going on a naked stroll with Mikado-sama, while wearing a collar around my neck!”

“Come back! I beg you, please!”

Mikado saw his fiance escalate even further than before, but he was at a loss on how to handle the situation. Maybe the fact that this was supposed to be their pre-honeymoon, but Rinka was awfully rushful.

A big wide open sky, no cloud in sight. Together with that, the golden sun that looked about to explode, shining down on the scorching beach. The sea shone like a gemstone so blue, as it felt like a demonic presence lulled you in.

The location was overflowing with a wide range of customers, all wearing their respective swimsuits. Mikado was the same, as he waited for Rinka. Though he wasn't strictly the inclosed type, rather than being outdoors, he preferred reading books or studying for the future instead.

“Mikado-sama, thank you for waiting.”

“Ahh, it's fine....”

Mikado turned around—and swallowed his breath. The spirit of summer stood before him. Making him forget that he was overseas, she had black, darker than the night black hair. Accepting the sun shine from above, it looked even more jet black, as it stood in perfect contrast to the beach.

Of course, one could forget the body where the charming black hair shone down from. Her slender shoulders emphasized her well-endowed chest, only held back by her snow white swimsuit top. Her swimsuit skirt had frills around it, greatly revealing her tender thighs, pulling Mikado's gaze towards them.

Add to that the onlookers, who raised voices of admiration. Apparently, her immense beauty pulled in the surroundings as well. And now, this immense attack power that she possessed slashed Mikado right into the chest. Even though he knew he had to calm down, his body just stood there, frozen. His manly instincts were going on overkill mode.

“U-Um...Mikado-sama...? Is it...weird?” Rinka asked, openly

confused, and worried by Mikado's reaction.

She hid her chest with both her arms, her arms filled with anxiety. Her adorable gesture, and the scent from her bare skin, it all played with Mikado's ability to think.

"No...you look beautiful."

Mikado could only accept it. If he didn't praise her for it, it would be blasphemy as a man.

"I-Is that so...I am very happy..." Rinka's face turned beet red.

If she felt like it, she could brag about her beauty to every person on this planet, but she showed no signs of doing so, as she felt more embarrassed than anything.

"I...Do I possess the right to be at your side, Mikado-sama...?"

"...Yeah."

"Thank you...very much..."

Rinka lined up next to Mikado, wrapping her arms around his, tightly holding it. The bare sensation of her skin directly ran a shock up to Mikado's brain, as her breasts were slightly deformed, seeing that the swimsuit bra doesn't have the fabric as a normal bra would. As a result of that, Mikado felt the deepest parts of his body burn strong.

The two of them made their way to the shore, as they gathered the eyes of the other visitors of the beach in great mass. Gazes at Rinka with ulterior desires and excitement, whereas Mikado earned himself death glares of jealousy. With every step, Rinka's chest shook, trying to rob Mikado of his consciousness.

—I can't be swept along here.

Mikado felt his sense of danger activate. It was a bold attack with a lot of fire power, no strategy used, but exactly because it was a fast ball, it was just effective. If she continued pushing like this, the danger of Mikado's chastity would rise continuously. Before he achieved his first love, he could not climb the stairs to adulthood.

Attacking was the best defence. Hence, in order to make Rinka's approach crumble, Mikado had to plan a counterattack.

"Rinka, it's a bit hard to walk like this."

"Ah, I-I am terribly sorry!" Rinka panicked ever so slightly, and separated from Mikado.

Thinking that she probably angered Mikado, tears were building up in the corners of her mouth. Mikado ignored this, and just reached out for her hand with a smile.

"Let's just hold hands normally. This trip might be supposed as the pre-honeymoon, but it is also a date between you and me, so as the man, could you let me take the lead?"

"Mikado-sama...! Yes! Yes!"

Rinka's eyes sparkled in joy, as she jumped at Mikado's hand. Once he returned the grasp, she walked after him like a small puppy.

—I thought so.

His fiancé was weak against having someone lead her. Maybe because she was a maiden in love. Though Mikado didn't mind Rinka openly showing her affection towards him, in order to preserve his mental strength, he had to use her weak points to keep the damage to a bare limit. Because this was a love game after all.

Mikado mentally prepared himself for what's to come, as he set foot on the beach, walking through the mass of people. At the same time, Rinka glanced up at Mikado.

"Mikado-sama, do you like swimming?"

Mikado nodded along like a man would.

"I like it. It acts as a wonderful discipline. Inside the water, you cannot count on anybody, especially during a storm. You have to survive with your own strength and skill. In short, inside the ocean, it is a battle with despair."

“B-Battle with despair...?”

For some reason, Rinka looked a bit confused.

“This sure takes me back...in order to strengthen my body, I swam from the mainland to the Ogasawara Islands at high speed, together with my father.”

“I do believe that is about a thousand kilometers...?”

Mikado sighed.

“It was pretty far, yeah. Relying on passing ships was forbidden, so I couldn’t take a break, and I even got wrapped up in a storm as well. But, the most troublesome part was the swarm of orcas attacking us. I thought we could use that as a means of transport, but before I realized it, my father and I had already taken care of them, so we couldn’t use it.”

“That is Mikado-sama for you...The training of the Kitamikado Family must be truly difficult...” Rinka showed a wry smile, but Mikado just laughed.

“It’s actually pretty fun. It felt like my heart was being cleansed after swimming for so long, and it makes you think if you were born as the propeller of a ship in the meantime.”

“Is that not fairly dangerous?!”

“You have a lot of things to eat as well. Since you can’t properly eat during your fast swimming, Father and I were eating squids on the way to fill our bellies. Krills were pretty good as well.”

“Are you a whale now?!”

“What are you talking about? I’m as much of a human as you are. When we decided to sleep, we wrapped seaweed around us, and just let us float on the surface of the water.”

“Now you are a sea otter?!”

Mikado wanted his fiance to show admiration, so he told an old story

like that, but Rinka was instead showing doubts if Mikado was even human.

“How about you try it as well, Rinka?”

Rinka turned pale.

“Y-Yes! If it’s with Mikado-sama, I would go to the depths of hell! Even if I may die half-way, I would not regret anything if I could die in your arms!”

“You won’t die from just that. A thousand kilometers is not fit for a beginner, so let’s start with 500!”

“C-Could we maybe make that one kilometer...?”

Mikado raised his eyebrow.

“That is nearly not enough is it.”

“It very much is for me!”

“But...the outer radius of earth is around 40.000 kilomters...”

“Why did the scale go up even further?!”

“Then, let’s do a special training now. In order for you to be able to keep up, I’ll have you master the most efficient swimming methods right now.”

“P-Please...please do keep it easy on me...!” With tears in her eyes, Rinka was pulled towards the sea.

“Haa...Huff...”

Lying upwards on the shore, stretching her body, Rinka was gasping for air. With her thighs sparkling from the water, her hair glued to her body with a mixture of the sea water and sweat, she had quite the erotic appearance.

However, do not be fooled. She barely escaped death.

“Apologies. Seems like I went too far,” Mikado muttered, sitting next

to her.

He wanted to start with a small and simple 50 kilometers for a beginner like Rinka, but he didn't consider the female biology, which he now had to reflect upon. At the same time, Rinka let out a faint giggle.

"Really...you don't have to be this dejected, Mikado-sama."

"However..."

"I am perfectly fine. I may be a bit tired, but I would not be worthy of being your wife if I could not put up with a regime such as this. On top of that, I had gotten to see your childish attitude, so I could not be happier." Flashing the smile of a goddess, Mikado had to hold his chest to suppress the damage.

"I'm not...childish at all."

"It sure was. Normally, you act calm and collected, but this time you were so energetic, and your eyes were sparkling as you spoke of the swimming. It was really cute."

"Ugh..."

Being called cute, there couldn't be any greater humiliation as the successor of the renowned Kitamikado Family. Even so, it didn't feel bad at all. Instead, he felt an odd warmth rise up inside of his chest, his ears growing hot.

Rinka took another deep breath, and pushed herself up from the sand, facing Mikado.

"I love the usual Mikado-sama, as well as the cute Mikado-sama. I want to find out even more about you, I want to know more about you, just as much...as I want you to find out about me."

"Rinka..."

A soft summer breeze hit the two of them. The sunlight shone down on Rinka, illuminating her every body, the water drops on her body, as they fell down from her chin. It was...too much of a beautiful

scenery.

Mikado was lost for a response, as the waves gently hit Rinka. She let out a cute shriek, and fell towards Mikado, who embraced her reflexively. Though her body felt a bit cold through the splash of water, her body was brimming with energy, overflowing with charm.

“Mikado-sama...” Rinka’s eyes glanced over at Mikado’s lips.

At the same time, Mikado felt the breeze stopping. The atmosphere didn’t allow him to breathe even, as a tense mood ran between them. Even though he knew he had to get away, his body wouldn’t listen. He was caught as prey in the young maiden’s scheme. And then—

“Seems like...you’re enjoying yourself quite a bit...?”

A voice reaching up to absolute zero shattered this sweet atmosphere. As Mikado turned his head towards the voice, he was greeted by Kisa, wearing a swimsuit. A dark, ominous aura leaked from every pore of her body, as she glared down at Mikado like God would during the day of judgement.

“Heyho! Mikado-kun, Rinka-chan, we’re here!”

Behind Kisa was Mizuki, equally wearing a swimsuit, who smiled at them. Rinka let out a shriek like she had seen a ghost, as she clung even further to Mikado.

“W-Why...are you the two of the Nanjou Family here...?”

“A-Ah, sorry, but I just kinda tagged along as well...ehe.”

Hearing a familiar voice behind him, Mikado turned around once again, to find Kokage’s face peeking out from behind a parasol, built up on the beach. Maybe it was because his attention was solely focussed on Rinka, but he didn’t pick up on their appearance at all.



“Why is everyone here?! This was supposed to be my pre-honeymoon with Mikado-sama!” Rinka screamed in disbelief.

Kisa put one hand on her waist in a beautiful posture.

“As long as it is upon this very Earth we tread, every living being cannot escape my gaze! And, Shizukawa Rika! I will not give you my prey!”

“M-Mikado-sama! Let us run away! This was supposed to be our lovey-dovey drip!”

Right as Rinka grasped Mikado’s hand to run away, Mizuki jumped at her, pressing her face inside Rinka’s cleavage.

“Ahh, Rinka-chan’s breasts are seriously big! They might be bigger than Onee-chan’s! Like marshmallows!”

“H-Hold on, Mizuki-san?! You are tickling me! Let me go this instant!”

As Rinka was busy fighting off the sudden assault, Kisa pulled on Mikado’s arm to tear him away from Rinka’s grasp. A wonderful two-team play executed by the sisters. Following that, Kisa glared at Mikado.

“What a shame that you couldn’t spend some sweet time with your cute fiance! Isn’t it sad that you didn’t even get a kiss?! Hell is waiting for you now, so you best be prepared!”

“No...you really saved me by coming here...” Mikado muttered from the bottom of his heart.

To this, Kisa’s eyes opened wide.

“W-What? You’re that happy to see me?”

“Yeah, I really am.”

That would have been dangerous. If he had gotten swept along the atmosphere, he might have done something not reversible. Thankfully, Kisa came in as a stopper.

“T-That makes sense! Your fiance might be a beauty, but she cannot hope to win against me! You must have wanted to see me in my beautiful swimsuit appearance! You must have wanted to play with me! R-Really, you should have said so from the very beginning! Fufu...fufufufu...!” Kisa laughed bashfully, putting both her hands on her cheek.

At the same time, Rinka was fighting still.

“T-This was not supposed to happen! Only a bit further, and I could have enjoyed my first kiss with Mikado-sama! And after that, we would have gone straight to the hotel! Then we would have stayed in there until our return home, spending our days in pleasure and isolation! I would fall asleep in Mikado-sama’s arms after another night...and all that planning is ruined now!”

To that, Mizuki.

“Kyaaa~ Rinka-chan is so perverted! Then, why don’t Onee-chan, Kokage-chan, and I join you for a fivesome! Then your plan worked out perfectly!”

“M-Me as well?!” Kokage jolted up.

“No we won’t! Mikado is my prey alone!”

“Then let’s just decide on the order! With rock paper scissors or something to fight for Mikado-kun!”

“There won’t be anything like that either! I don’t want Mikado getting sullied by some other woman!”

Hearing this, Mizuki shook her head in disbelief.

“How selfish you are, Onee-chan~ It’s not good to hurt things for yourself~”

“I’m not selfish at all! This is something to strengthen our feelings for each other, in a romantic setting!”

“You’re unexpectedly pure and maiden-like...”

“I-I’m not...!” Kisa bit her lip in a flustered manner.

She emphasized her position as the successor of the Queen of Darkness, but her expressions and words were awfully cute. That being said, Mikado felt the same. Hurting someone just because of his pent-up desires was not the kind of man he wanted to become. To that, Mizuki pouted.

“If we’re not doing any of that, then what else should we play? I’ll give it all my thought, so if you don’t like it, think about it yourself, Onee-chan!”

“I had no idea...so doing perverted things is just playing around for you...”

“No no no, don’t listen to them.”

Kokage was at a loss, to which Mikado let out a quick retort. As the information broker and gatherer she was, only fixated on UFOs or UMAs—even going so far as to jump off the second floor’s biology room just to chase an UFO—hence her entire knowledge about the erotic world heavily underdeveloped. It’d be troublesome if she got some wrong ideas just by listening to Mizuki.

Kisa crossed her arms, as she started thinking.

“Let’s see...it has to be something with the beach, now that we’re here...How about a sand bath?”

“Where you bury someone in the sand? Sounds cool! Let’s do that!” Mizuki jumped up in joy.

Kisa pointed at the ground right next to the water.

“Shizukawa-san, lie down there. I’ll give you a taste of your near future.”

“I wholeheartedly decline!”

“No need to hold back. There’s nothing scary going to happen.”

“Everything about this is scary! I feel like I won’t leave this place ever again!”

Kisa clicked with her tongue.

“...You and your cursed good intuition.”

“It wasn’t difficult to tell that much!”

“Once the flood came, I would have gotten you out, you know?”

“The full tide is enough to kill me!”

“I was planning on putting a towel around your mouth to prevent that...”

“That’s just to stop me from screaming, isn’t it?!” Rinka took a step back, terrified from Kisa.

Mikado didn’t think Kisa would just recklessly kill off the young daughter of the Shizukawa Conglomerate, but he couldn’t confidently say that Kisa was logically thinking at this moment. For now, he moved to a position where he could protect his fiancée .

“Let’s just bury Mikado-kun! I’m sure he would be able to dig himself up even if he was at the center of the earth!”

“Don’t be ridiculous! I’ll burn to a crisp in the mantle!”

Mikado was still only a human.

“Then, maybe Kokage-chan? She seems like the person who wouldn’t complain if she suffocated!”

“Ehh?! I will complain because I don’t want to die!” Kokage jumped up.

“Alright then, whoever wants to go! Who will be the victim!” Kisa must have gotten tired of this, as her true intentions leaked out.

Now that it had come to this, Mikado had to take the first step. With the pressure coming from inside the planet, able to crush a human, a man had to step forth.

“Alright...Bury me then.” The words of a martyr.

“Well said! Then let’s start!”

“If Mikado-kun is going to get buried, then I’ll join him!”

“M-Me too!”

“Might just get buried all together!”

“H-Hey?!”

Kisa, Mizuki, and Kokage all jumped at Mikado, pushing sand onto him, with the amount that you would need to hide a dead body.

“But, who is going to bury the last person then?”

“It’s easy! We just have to ask someone passing by! ‘Please kill me!’, was it~?”

“So we’ll get killed either way?!”

“What are we, some future tourist spot?!”

Before his complaint could show any value, Mikado had been buried completely.

“M-Mikado-sama...”

The same fate awaited Rinka, as she was buried by the other three girls.

“Hya?! A crab pinched my butt! No, it must be the extraterrestrial space crab Cotebrost! So my butt finally had an extraterrestrial encounter!”

Kokage was out as well.

“Ahh, this feeling is so nostalgic. It’s like when Onee-chan wanted to bury me in concrete!” Mizuki laughed like it wasn’t her problem.

And with this, the four were buried in the sand.

“Now only Kisa-chan is left. But I don’t see anybody around...” Kokage looked at her surroundings.

“Fufu...Fufufufu...”

Standing before the three girls plus Mikado was Kisa with crossed arms, letting out the laugh of a villain. She had her chin lifted up, as she clearly looked down on the rest of them. It was the face of

someone announcing the end of the world.

“Very good...To think that you all would go into your holes without me having to do anything...”

“Kisa...you...” Mikado narrowed his eyebrows.

He remembered an old treasure island book he once read. In the beginning, Captain Flint ordered the pirates to hide the treasure in an isolated island, as they ended up as skeletons together with the treasure.

“Exactly! Why would I ever chase a situation where others could do what they wanted with me! Aiming for the highest heights is the Nanjou way! You are all nothing more than my lackey right now!”

“H-How despicable...!” Rinka shook her head, all she could move on a side note.

“You can say that again...” Mikado sighed, only his head reaching out from the sand.

A perfect betrayal after everyone had agreed on it. In a certain sense, he could admire that.

“That’s Onee-chan for you! Pure evil! I respect you!”

Even though she was defenseless to the utmost limit, Mizuki was as energetic as always.

“Kisa-chan...? What are you planning on doing now? N-No more tickling, please!” Kokage shook.

Apparently, the experience of her being caught by a vending machine, and tickled to the brink of death turned into quite the trauma. Then again, that would be the same for everyone, most likely.

“Now then, what should I do indeed...I can decide over life and death after all...” Kisa walked between Mikado and the others, like a commander seeking out who to sacrifice.

At the same time, she put some more sand on them, making sure that they could not escape under any means.

“With this, the preparations are complete...”

While the other girls could only watch in awe, Kisa kneeled down in front of Mikado. Though she wore a one-piece swimsuit, you could see deeply into her cleavage, making it look even more bold than a separated type. With a beauty like her approaching him in such a swimsuit, Mikado gulped. Knowing that she had the upper hand, she confidently whispered.

“Mikado. If you want to be saved...then say that you like me.”

“...Huh?”

“Oh my, you didn’t hear me? I’m ordering you to confess your love to me.”

“Why would I do that.” Mikado glared up at Kisa.

Sparks were flying between the two.

“If you don’t say it honestly now, I’ll have this crab pinch Mizuki’s nose.” Kisa said, as she picked up a nearby crab, closing in on Mizuki’s nose.

Unlike the usual type in Japan, it had larger scissors, and looked more grotesque.

“Are you really fine with this? I will have this nose of a young maiden get ruined by this horrible crab...Will you really be able to watch that happen, Mr. Gentleman?”

“Ehhh? That sounds pretty fun!” Mizuki’s eyes were sparkling in anticipation.

“See how scared she is...Mikado, can you really watch her in a pinch like this...? Are you really that cruel of a human being...?”

“How many will you pinch me with? Let’s break the world record!”

“The person herself looks awfully excited if you ask me...?”

“I’ll even take some pictures of her, and put it on Instagram...Then they will make funny pictures and reaction images with her picture, and she will live the rest of her life in shame...”

“Eh, cool! I’d be a celebrity!” Mizuki got more and more happy and excited. Yet again, Mikado was unable to grasp Mizuki’s psychological and mental framework. She was exceptionally tough, feels joy and admiration from Kisa’s pure evil, making you think that she probably would be fine if left alone.

—No.

Mikado changed his train of thought. Even if the person herself wasn’t scared of this, he still couldn’t bear to see her being hurt in any way. Mizuki still has a splendid future ahead of her. As a Japanese young male that Mikado was, he couldn’t allow such wasted talent. Hence, he put as much strength as he could into his arms, pushing his hands above the sand.

“Eh...no way! How can you move?!” Kisa was bewildered.

“Something of this level won’t stop me...The men of the Kitamikado Family are able to escape from beneath hardened asphalt if necessary!”

“Why would you need such ridiculous training!?”

“So that we can protect the citizens we watch over!”

Mikado put his hands on the unsteady sand, using every muscle in his arms to push himself above the ground. He made it so that Rinka and the others could free themselves from the sand, and finally grabbed Kisa’s wrist.

“Come with me for a second!”

“Eh, w-what?!”

Kisa was overwhelmed by Mikado, just running after him away from the shore. So that Rinka and the others wouldn’t suffer any more,

Mikado took Kisa through the other guests. Once they arrived at a small store, Mikado finally came to a stop.

“Listen, the love game is a game between the two of us. Bothering others unrelated to it is...” Mikado wanted to lecture Kisa, but quickly realized that something was off.

She had her gaze cast downward, not trying to meet eyes with Mikado.

“A-Arent you pretty pushy all of a sudden...T-That wasn’t too bad in itself...and it rather surprised me...D-Did you want to be alone with me that badly...?” Kisa mumbled.

“That’s...”

‘Wrong’. He couldn’t say that. The embarrassed and flustered Kisa was just that cute. Before, she looked like a messenger of doom, and how she showed the face of a maiden in love, it really was unfair. The gap was too large, which led Mikado to even forget what he was even angry about.

Kisa looked up at Mikado.

“I...wanted to be alone with you.”

“Eh.”

Why? Because she liked him, and wanted to be together with him, or because she wanted to continue their battle in the love game. Mikado wanted to know, but couldn’t muster up the courage to ask.

Kisa started to blush even further.

“Hey, let’s go enjoy ourselves a bit. Like we did at that party when we were younger.”

“...So you remember.”

“How could I forget.”

They were short, yet impactful words. Mikado felt the same way, he

had never once forgotten about it. Back when the conflict of their two families hadn't been entrusted to them yet, during their innocent childhood. Back then, they had a bond connecting them. During parties or meetings, they would sneak away from the adults, just spending time together as children should...Or maybe not, as they were playing chess or poker, Mikado being entranced by the girl's slender fingers as she moved the shogi pieces.

"...Yeah, that doesn't sound too bad from time to time."

Forgetting about the love game, just going back to the good old times.

"Then it's decided. Since we're here, how about we go for a swim?"

"Long-distance swimming?!" Mikado swallowed his breath.

"That won't work. Let's borrow that."

"That...?"

Following Kisa's gaze, Mikado spotted a store that sold shaved ice. Eating that while going for a swim could end up badly, so he gave Kisa a dubious gaze.

"That over there, come on." Kisa pointed at the deeper part of the store.

Red, yellow, blue. Even a ring with characters on it.

".....A swim ring? You can't swim?"

"I can swim twenty meters."

"So you'll drown in a fifty meters-long pool?"

"I won't. I'll call for help as I slowly sink deeper."

"Isn't that the same as drowning!"

Kisa grew more flustered.

"I'm not the sportive type, okay! I'm not a fish, so how would I be

able to swim like you! Of course, I'm not bad or anything, if I become serious, I can go 27 meters!"

Basically, she was a bad swimmer.

"And yet, you pulled me to an deserted island, or on a cruiser."

"If I want to defeat you, I have to bet my own life as well."

"I-I see..." Mikado was a bit taken aback because she said it without hesitation.

Even if her desire for Mikado resulted in her wish to annihilate the Kitamikado Family, he felt happy inside.

Kisa and Mikado went ahead to rent a large swim ring, as they headed towards the shore. The old lady of the sore must have gotten the wrong idea about something, as she gave the two of them a swim ring with a heart pattern on it. Kisa put the swim ring on her, and followed Mikado in the water.

"You join me in here, Mikado."

"I can swim, so there's no need for it."

"Oh, are you embarrassed by any chance? That our bodies would touch inside here? That you would become conscious of me? Doesn't this basically mean that you like me?" Kisa said in a clear provocative manner.

She had the swim ring at her back, allowing her to float in the water. Beneath the water, Mikado could see her bare, slender legs. Mikado knew he shouldn't give in to the provocation that easily, but denying it would give him a disadvantage in the love game.

"You want to act as lovers that badly? If so, then I don't mind joining you."

"H-Huh?! Why do you sound so—"

Mikado didn't hesitate at all, as he swam towards the panicky Kisa, entering the swim ring. The second he did, he immediately regretted

his courage. This was even more of a hell than he had previously envisioned. He clearly underestimated this couple's swim ring. The size was perfectly calculated so that a boy and girl could barely fit in there. With just the slightest movement of either of them, or just the waves, they would touch each other here and there.

"This is..." Mikado felt his own body grow hot.

"The invention of the devil..."

The two of them felt the same way. Mikado felt Kisa's two bulges move up and down on his own chest. Because the fabric in between barely covered anything, it felt like they were touching him directly.

"H-How is it? Are you...nervous?"

"...Not at all. What about you...Kisa?"

"As if I would! Something like this is easier than world domination!"

"Don't make world domination sound so simple!"

"Because it is! We just have to spread our specifically created virus! Though the antidote is still in development!"

"There's nothing to dominate if everyone dies!"

Kisa tried to hide it, but she was equally under pressure in this situation. She was clearly conscious of Mikado as a man. Becoming conscious of that fact, Mikado was unable to remain calm even further. And after that, an awkward silence ensued.

Even though their hearts were almost close enough to touch, they had no words to share. Once the sea calmed down a bit, Kisa moved. She moved her slender legs, moving them like a living being almost, as she wrapped them around Mikado's.

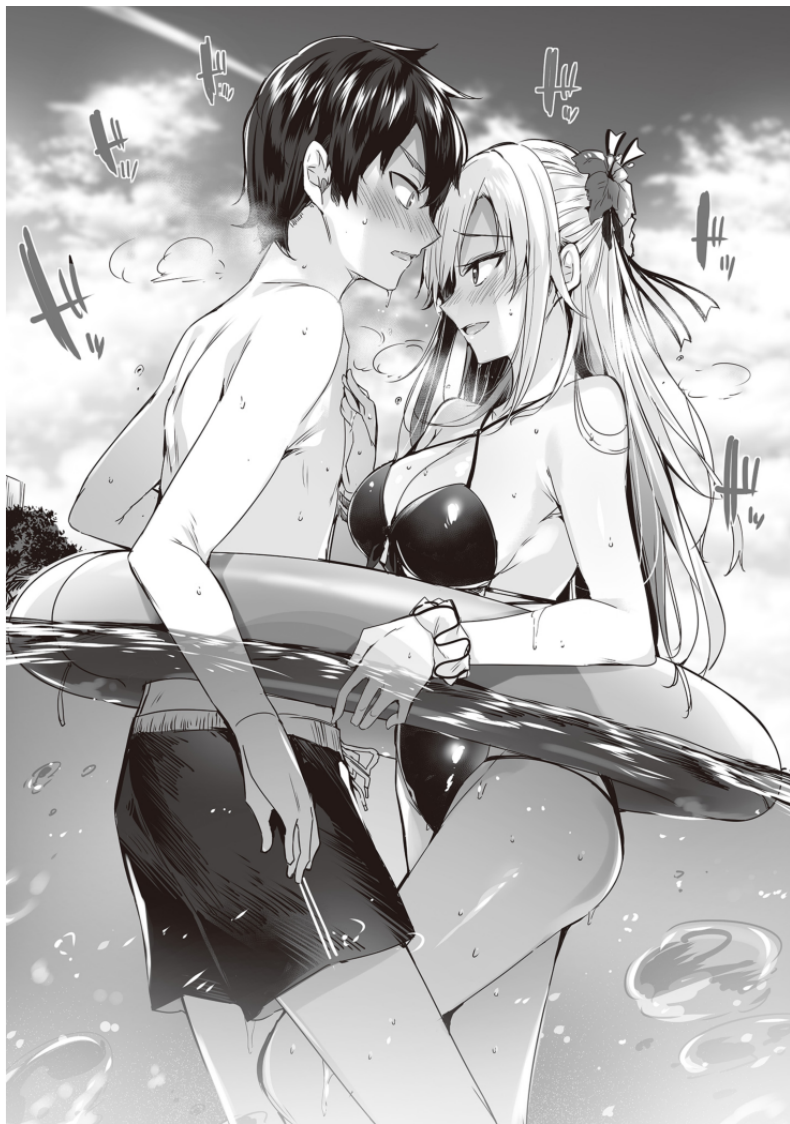
"What are you doing!?"

"My, what is that reaction? I'm just trying to make sure that we don't get washed away during the waves. Wouldn't it be better to get lost as two people instead of just one?"

“There is nothing good about being washed away in the first place!”

“If we were to die, we wouldn’t be alone at least!”

Kisa moved her sharp fingernails to softly scratch Mikado’s chest, almost like a playful cat. Their waists grew closer and closer, transmitting the girl’s softness, even through the swimsuit. She could only do something bold as this because they were at a foreign beach.



“Hey...stop it...”

Mikado tried his best to separate from Kisa, but the swim ring didn't give him much room.

“Fufu, you're starting to panic, Mikado. Then, what about this?!”
Kisa's face grew beet red, as she clung to Mikado.

Maybe she had lost her reasonable thinking. To Mikado, it felt like she was panicking just as much as he did. With a desperate expression, she clung to him. Feeling her entire body on his, the bare skin barely protected by their swimsuits still, his mind went blank.

To think that an action like this could feel so comfortable. Just feeling someone else as such. To think it could make him this happy. Feeling his loved one this close. If offering his soul or entire future would allow him to let this moment continue for all eternity, he might have just given in to it. At the same time, he felt an odd warmth around his waist, as his son was starting to suffer from a rush of blood.

“Ah.”

Having presumably picked up on Mikado’s arousal, Kisa’s body twitched. Carefully, she looked up at Mikado, and whispered.

“Do you...want to do it, Mikado?”

“W-What exactly?”

Her large, round eyes were gazing deep into Mikado.

“Perverted stuff...with me...”

“.....!”

Of course he wanted to. It wasn’t just pure lust urging him. If so, then things would be simple. That being said, Mikado wanted to gain Kisa’s everything. Her pitch-black, yet also radiating heart, her life the most important to Mikado, everything about her had to be his. It was a desire of his soul. Instincts that were stronger than normal instincts.

At the same time, Kisa was sulking like a kid being left out of the conversation.

“You’re saying over in a hotel managed by Shizukawa-san, right...”

“...Yeah.”

Towards Mikado's answer, Kisa lightly bit her lip.

"...You're sleeping in the same bed?"

"...There is only one bed."

"...And you are fine with that?"

"...If I disagree, the Shizukawa Family and Kitamikado Family will find out."

"Yeah...that makes sense..."

Yet again, the two of them grew quiet. Only the distant voices of the beach visitors could be heard. For them, they must have no complaints with Mikado and Kisa embracing each other like this. Finding someone you like, you would end up in a mutual love if things worked out. It was as cheap as a snack, and yet could make people envious in an instant.

Kisa audibly gulped, and opened her mouth in determination.

"Y-You know, Mizuki and I are staying over nearby...of course, with separate rooms...and my room is pretty big, so..."

"What...do you mean by that...?" Mikado asked, forcing out his voice.

He was perfectly aware of what she meant by that. She was inviting him, Mikado, to her room. Rather than having him taken by his fiancée, she would be fine with sleeping in the same room. Again, the only sounds that could be heard were the faint talking and laughing from the people at the beach. The two were still embracing each other, feeling each other, as the sun shone down on them. The summer sea made them go crazy.

"Kisa..."

Right as Mikado was about to give in to his feelings, something pulled on his leg.

".....?!"

Before he could even react or resist, he was already pulled deeper into the water, away from the swim ring.

—A shark...?! No, an underwater soldier?!

Mikado immediately went into defensive mode, looking around his surroundings for the perpetrator. As he did, he found Mizuki, grinning at him with a peace-sign.

“...Puwah!” Mikado pushed his head above the water.

Mizuki was clinging to his arm, pulling him along as she flapped her legs inside the one-person swim ring.

“Captured Mikado-kun!”

“Mizuki?! Give him back, he’s mine!”

“You already got to play lots with Mikado-kun! Now it’s my turn!”

Kisa tried her hardest to chase after Mizuki, but she couldn’t win against her leg speed. Being bad with this all to begin with, it made sense that Kisa would be lacking here. In a matter of seconds, they gathered a respectable distance between the two of them, but Mikado couldn’t exactly be relieved entirely.

“That was dangerous, wasn’t it, Mikado-kun. A bit more, and you would have been caught by Onee-chan, right?”

“.....Yeah.”

He had to accept it. That situation just now was horribly dangerous. Because not only Mikado, but Kisa all the same had both lost their rational thinking in the heat of the moment, they wouldn’t even have been able to tell who won in the end, which probably would have brought forth even more other problems. Naturally, Mizuki probably wasn’t doing this to save Mikado from that, but it acted as a saving grace.

“Will you play with me as thanks?”

“Sure, what do you want to do?”

“Um...I wanna swim through the ocean to get to the country on the other side! With that, neither Onee-chan nor Rinka-chan won't be able to bother us!”

“The next country is about 2000 kilometers away, you know?! Not to mention that the currents are horrible around there, so if things end up badly, you might end up in San Francisco!”

“With current, you mean that?” Mizuki pointed at the water surface around ten meters away from her.

There, the current suddenly sped up, as the waves grew bigger.

“Most likely. We should be careful not to approach them...”

“Yay! Time to ride the waves and visit San Francisco!”

As the exact opposite of what Mikado was hoping for, Mizuki flapped her legs even faster.

“You morooooooooon!”

Mikado grabbed the swim ring, and pulled it in the opposite direction. However, the range of influence the current possessed was further than he imagined, and stronger as well. Their bodies were wrapped up in it, and Mizuki's body disappeared in the waves. And then, she didn't float up again.

“Mizuki...?”

No response came. All that was left was the swim ring floating on the water. There was no sight from the energetic Mizuki. Almost like the world pretended she had never existed.

“Shit...!”

Feeling a chill run down his spine, Mikado dove into the water. Thanks to the sunlight shining down into the dark abyss, Mikado was able to spot Mizuki's small body sink deeper. Using every fiber in his being, he put all his strength into his legs, together with skilled arm movements, he chased after her. Managing to grasp the girl's body, he pulled it above the surface.

“Mizuki! Mizuki?! Pull yourself together!”

He tried calling out to her, but Mizuki stayed limb, with no response. He had to pull her to safety, but the beach they were at before was nowhere instead. Instead, after Mikado frantically looked around, he spotted an island. It was a small one, barely offering space on the sandy beach, only a small amount of trees growing there. Then again, it was better than floating in the middle of the ocean like this.

Being careful that Mizuki’s head wouldn’t end up underwater, he headed for that saving grace, as fast as possible. Arriving at relatively solid ground, he lifted up Mizuki’s body to run, and put her down at the beach. Still, Mizuki showed no actions. Her skin had been awfully white from the start, but it looked like even the rest of her blood was drained from it. She looked like a doll, waiting to be moved.

“You’re joking...right...?” Mikado’s heart was filled with an awful premonition.

He didn’t want Mizuki to end up like this. Not just because she was the little sister of his beloved Kisa. She might be a bit annoying and too energetic for Mikado’s taste, but he still didn’t want to lose the always cheerful Mizuki next to him.

Needless to say, as the successor of the Kitamikado Family, Mikado was trained in emergency measures for a situation such as this.

Artificial respiration. He did have a certain level of resistance to not touch any other girl’s lips besides Kisa’s. But, this wasn’t the time to be such a wimp. Mikado sat down next to Mizuki, as he inspected her small, red lips. They sparkled with the droplets of water still on them, and below that her albeit young, already plenty erotic body.

—It’s like kissing Kisa.

Thinking like that, his heartbeat accelerated even further. As he approached his face to start the procedure, a sweet breath leaked out of the girl’s mouth...

—A breath...?

Mikado felt that something was off, as he stopped himself. Did he just

assume the worst case scenario, and she was actually...? To check, he poked at Mizuki's cheek. Very lightly, just barely visible for the human eye, so much that the person herself wasn't even aware of it, her body moved. He continued to poke at her neck.

"Mm..."

A cute voice leaked out of her throat, but Mizuki didn't open her eyes.

"Don't...just act like you're sleeping!"

Mikado fell in a blind rage, and used his trained arms and fingers to move them along and over Mizuki's belly, tickling her at high speed.

"Nyaha! Nyahahahaha! Stop tickling me, Mikado-kun! Don't! Not there! Mmm...! I'll go crazyyyy!" Mizuki moaned in the face of this torture, clinging to Mikado's arm in order to have him stop.

She was fully revived. In the face of that, Mikado stood up, his shoulders shaking in rage, whereas Mizuki embraced her small body, looking up at Mikado like she was the victim in this situation.

"Really, you pervert, Mikado-kun! You're way too bold just because we're on a deserted island!"

"I'm not a pervert! There's gotta be a limit on how much you can play around! Do you even know how worried I was?!"

Mizuki's eyes opened wide.

"Eh...? You were worried? ...About me?"

"Of course!"

"Even though I'm not Onee-chan?" She asked, slightly confused.

"As if that's related to anything! I'd hate it if something bad happened to you, okay!"

"You'd cry if I died?"

“...Yeah.”

“Ohhh, is that so...I see, so Mikado-kun is treasuring me that much...” She muttered, deeply in admiration.

Her face started to burn in a strong red, as she drew circles into the sand. Seeing the oddly embarrassed Mizuki like that, Mikado found himself awfully nervous. Following that, Mizuki clung to Mikado.

“Then, give me mouth-to-mouth, Mikado-kun!”

“What do you mean ‘Then’?!”

“Because I’m about to die!”

“You’re more energetic than a baby that just got born, right?!”

“I’m at the last stages of my life! I’m trying my hardest to hang onto dear life!”

“Then use that last glimmer for something better!”

Mizuki was now the one actively looking for mouth-to-mouth respiration, whereas Mikado tried his hardest to push her away. After losing against Mikado’s raw arm strength, Mizuki fell backwards onto the sand.

“I don’t want this! Just give me mouth-to-mouth already! Right now! If not, I’ll go drown myself! Come on, kiss meeeee!” She flapped up her arms and legs.

“You a kid or something?”

“I sure am! And Mikado-kun is a lolicon who gives mouth-to-mouth to children! I’ll tell the police officer!”

“That would mean that every lifeguard at the beach is a potential lolicon!”

“All men are lolicons!”

“Apologize to them! Especially to those who like older women!”

“If you don’t want to be arrested, then give up, and do perverted stuff with me!”

“So I’ll be arrested either way!”

No way of living through this. Then again, would someone from the Nanjou Family really resort to calling the police? Either way, it took quite some time until Mizuki started acting like a proper adult again.

Playing a bit with Mizuki on this small island, by the time they came back to the mainland, the sun was already setting. Before, the beach was filled with people, but now only silence greeted them.

“Seems like we were playing a lot. I hope the others weren’t worrying about us.”

Borrowing Mikado’s hand as she stood on solid ground again, Mizuki muttered.

“Sorry. I really bothered you a lot today, Mikado-kun.” Rarely enough, Mizuki was speaking calmly.

Mikado just shrugged with his shoulders.

“It’s fine. But, stop with this whole playing dead thing, that was really bad for my heart.

“...Yeah, I’m sorry. It’s just...I didn’t want Onee-chan to have Mikado-kun...Because I really like you, you know.” Mizuki stood still on the beach, as she put both her hands in front of her chest.

Her eyes so similar to Kisa’s, but yet again different from hers, looked up at Mikado. Only the sound of the crashing waves filled the silence, as the scent of both the water and her own sweat arrived at Mikado’s nose. Mizuki illustrated by the incoming moonlight looked like a fairy of the night so beautiful. Normally, she was acting like a small devil, but her sudden change of attitude completely bewildered Mikado, as he didn’t know what to respond to.

Before he could do anything however, Mizuki fell over towards Mikado, who stopped her in an embrace.

“If only I had been born three years earlier.”

“Why?”

“If I met Mikado-kun before Onee-chan, you might have fallen in love with me instead, right? Maybe not.” Mizuki’s eyes were slightly dampened.

“...Who knows.”

That was a lie. The same scent as Kisa, the same face, and an equally lovable personality. His instincts were screaming that he would definitely fall in love with her. But, the one he felt that way towards was Kisa, not Mizuki. Since that would not change, speaking of hypotheticals was a waste of time.

Mizuki laughed.

“Well, seeing that Mikado-kun is a lolicon, I just have to wait three years until you get tired of Onee-chan, falling in love with me instead!”

“How many times do I have to tell you that I’m not a lolicon...”

“It’s fine, it’s fine, I’ll keep it a secret for you!”

“You...” Mikado sighed, but realized something.

In order for the atmosphere not to grow too heavy, Mizuki deliberately changed the topic herself. Hence, as her future older brother-in-law, as her precious friend, Mikado stretched out his hands towards her.

“Let’s go home. Since it’s gotten cold, I’ll escort you to your lodging.”

“Eh, escort? Kyaa~ Mikado-kun is going to gobble me up once we get home!”

“I’m not doing any of that.”

“You’re just making me lower my guard! I read a lot about that in manga! Then again, it’s Mikado-kun, so I don’t mind even if you do

anything!”

“Please, listen when other people talk at least.”

If someone else heard this, Mikado would be suffering immensely. It could turn into a great scandal for the successor of the Kitamikado Family. Because in a situation like this, the male’s opinion counts less. However, Mizuki gave up on that, and instead took Mikado’s hand.

“Can we take a quick detour before that?”

“Shopping?”

“No, just come with me for a bit!”

“Can’t help it.” Mikado didn’t resist as Mizuki pulled on his arm.

Although she almost fell over several times because of the unsteady sand, she still kept going, as her silver hair was illuminated by the moon. They separated from the center of the beach.

“Where are we going?”

“Just follow me~”

Since he couldn’t answer her feelings, he had to at least follow her desires for that share. And, walking with her like this felt like he had really gotten a little sister. That was how Mikado felt.

The place they arrived at was a place located in the backhand of the beach. With a big rock, and the forest nearby, it was the perfect place to hide from any possible on-lookers. Left and right, figures of boy and girl pairings were hiding, very likely a place for couples to gather. He could hear sweet moans from a distance.

“This is...” Mikado looked around in a daze.

For someone who hasn’t been in contact with any of these sorts, it was like he had entered a different world. He was unable to understand what they were doing—No, he was perfectly aware of that. Rather, he was at a loss as to why you would embarrass yourself

by doing these things outside, and why this hasn't been reported to the police yet.

"Amazing, right! I looked it up online, and this seems to be a rather famous dating spot! The couples that got into the mood at the beach end up here! I really wanted to come here with Mikado-kun."

"Alright, time to go home. You taught me something important about society, so that's enough for me." Mikado did a clean 180 to walk away, but Mizuki held onto his arm.

"Don't go home yet! I wanna stay the night here with Mikado-kun!"

"Why is there any need to stay outside like this?!"

"If you don't do anything to me now, I'll scream 'This person is assaulting me!', okay?"

"That doesn't make any sense! What would you do if you got a cold?! Go home now!"

"Mikado-kun will be warming me up, so I won't catch a cold! Not to mention that idiots don't catch colds, right?"

"Don't say it yourself!"

"See...Mikado-kun...there's still an open space over there in the shadow of that rock...okay?" Mizuki stood on her toes to run her nose along Mikado's neck. "I know that you like Onee-chan, and I won't ask you to go for me all of a sudden...just please, do something good with me once a while, Mikado-kun..." Mizuki looked like a woman in heat.

Her expression was starting to turn drowsy, as her entire body was starting to scent with pure eroticism, looking more seductive than Kisa even.

—I let down my guard.

Mikado cursed himself. Even if she did an innocent expression most of the time, Mizuki belonged to the family of strategic geniuses, the Nanjou Family. And, if Mikado won the love game against Kisa,

Mizuki would be the next successor of the Nanjou Family. Or in other words, Mizuki possessed the possibility to become the Queen of Darkness.

“It’s time for children to sleep! We’re going home!” Mikado forcefully turned his back to Mizuki, running away.

“Kyaa! Lolicon Mikado-kun is abducting me!” Mizuki screamed in joy, as she clung to Mikado’s back.

Chapter 2: Hell in Heaven

After escorting Mizuki to her hotel, Mikado headed back to his own. The time had already fallen deep into the night, no sights of guests in the entrance hall. Instead, he was immediately greeted by the staff.

“Kitamikado-sama. Your wife is already waiting in your room. Please accept this key card.”

“...Thank you.” Mikado gave an awkward bow.

He was given the key card, but the gaze that followed this was awfully reproachful, making him feel uncomfortable. Entering the elevator, he went up to the highest floor. He used the key card given to him, carefully entering and closing the door behind him. Only a faint light illuminated the interior of the room, with no other human sounds. Rinka must have fallen asleep while she was waiting for Mikado to return. Or so he was hoping at least. He was just escorting a friend home, so it's not like he was off cheating, but he still felt guilty.

He tried to be as quiet as possible, heading to the living room—

“Mikado-sama! So you were safe! Just where did you go this afternoon?!” Rinka jumped at him with a pale face.

“I was...on some nearby deserted island...” Mikado was at a loss on what to say.

“No, I know that! I was not worrying about Mikado-sama in the slightest! Rather, another woman was with you the entire time, wasn't there?!”

“Um...I guess you can say that.”

Rinka put both her hands together, letting out a saddened moan.

“Ahhh, how could this happen! To think that my husband would return home only early in the morning during our honeymoon!”

“It’s not morning yet, is it?!”

“The other person was Mizuki-san, wasn’t she...If you said that you preferred middle school girls, I would have become one just for you!”

“How would you even do that?!”

“Surgery...”

Her face looked dead-serious.

“You’re exaggerating...” Mikado audibly gulped. “Just to let you know, I don’t have any tastes like that. So stop with those ridiculous ideas.”

“It is not ridiculous. With the techniques in surgery in possession by the Shizukawa Family, I can even become a grade school girl! If need be, even a kindergartner...or a toddler!”

“I don’t want any like that! So please stop already!” Mikado threw a rebuttal at full force.

He didn’t know he would experience such a conversation right after coming home, leaving him unprepared. To that, Rinka sat on the sofa, all strength leaving her body.

“Either way, the fault lies with me...”

“You didn’t do anything wrong. I’m the one to blame for not even contacting you. I’m really sorry.” Mikado lowered his head, but Rinka didn’t accept that.

“It is my fault! Because I don’t possess any feminine charm! Unable to fully satisfy Mikado-sama, you ran away to cheat! I am a failure of a wife!”

“In my memory, we aren’t even dating yet though!”

Rinka blushed.

“Oh my, ‘yet’, is it? So you mean to say that we will eventually get married.”

“I don’t mean to say anything!”

“I can tell without needing any words from you...As a wife, that should be expected, right?”

“Don’t put words in my mouth!”

Rinka must have been really lonely all alone, because she was jumping even more to conclusions than before. Also, on a side note, Mikado is still wearing his swimming trunks from before. He had been wearing them basically the entire day. If possible, he wanted to change quickly because it was starting to get a bit freezing, but his fiancé did not allow him to do so.

“I finally understood it. You must have left during the afternoon in order to pick out a proper engagement ring for me, have you not? You must have already prepared our marriage location! As soon as we come home, our wonderful newlywed life must begin! Mikado-sama would never cheat on me, never leave the house again!”

“Confinement?!”

Mikado thought that Rinka would not retort to such criminal actions, but looking at her now, there was no guarantee anymore.

—Why are there no normal people around me? What even is ‘normal’.

However, instead of going philosophical, Mikado instead retreated to the bathroom.

Late night.

Mikado stood in awe, in front of the king size bed.

—Seems like there’s only one place to sleep, huh...

There was no other possible sleeping place at his disposal, so Mikado offered to sleep on the floor, but Rinka would not allow that under any circumstances.

“This is supposed to be our pre-honeymoon, so sleeping in separate

beds would go against the entire purpose' she said. Apparently, this is something she would not back down on. Since Rinka was overlooking Mikado's questionable relationship with Kisa, he couldn't go against her word, at least to a certain degree. In this love game which would decide his future life, the very fact of her being his 'Fiance' is enough of a weapon.

—Now that it has come to this, I have to fall asleep as quickly as possible.

This experience of merely sleeping in the same room as a girl of his age was a first for Mikado. He was not sure what kind of trouble would occur, but if he were to be out for good, Rinka wouldn't try anything either. Luckily, Rinka was currently taking a shower herself, so now was the time to stack on his defences. Hence, he turned down the lights in the bedroom, lying on the bed.

However, he found trouble falling asleep. The more he thought to himself that he needed to fall asleep quickly, the more strength entered his body, leaving him more focussed than ever. He tried some calm breaths to get into a sleeping rhythm, but that didn't help either.

At the same time, he heard footsteps approaching. What followed was the sweet after-bath scent, as well as a certain heat flushing in on him like a wave.

“...Mikado-sama, you are awake, are you not?”

“.....!” Mikado carefully opened his mouth.

Shown in his field of view was Rinka, clothed in rather suggestive underwear. A normal bra and panties with black laces. They looked like they were connected, barely covering anything even though they're supposed to be underwear. This might be her so-called sure-win underwear. Whether it was her well-endowed chest, almost about to fall out from her bra, her slender shoulders, her perfectly formed waist, or her healthy thighs, her entire body was brimming with female charm, as she sat down next to Mikado. Wherever Mikado looked, it was poison for his eyes and mind.

“Rinka, I...” Mikado wanted to argue with Rinka.

“I will not tell Kisa-san about this.”

“About...what?”

“Whatever will happen in this suite. Whatever you might do to me, how far we might go, I will not tell a soul. That’s why, please give me a chance.” Her words couldn’t be more powerful.

No matter how much they indulge in pleasure, the girl would not ask Mikado for responsibility.

“That would be the worst of me.”

“That is not the case. I want you to try it. Try, and see if Kisa-san really is better...or if the two of us have a better affinity.”

Rinka embraced Mikado from behind, resting her feminine body on his back. A scent sweeter than any flower made its way into his nostrils. Her silky hair tickled Mikado’s cheek. Mikado’s five senses, no, his entire being was currently resisting against his reason.

“Listen, Rinka. A man and woman should not be bound by lust. By meeting their hearts directly, seeing their deepest parts of each other, they long for this, and become one. You are a splendid woman, so don’t lower your value by throwing away your body like this.” He tried to say, but Rinka wouldn’t listen.

“...That is not the case. I am doing this to exactly show you, and heighten my own evaluation with you.”

She pulled out a small bottle from next to the pillow, as the mysterious liquid inside of it shook up and down, and she put it in her own mouth. Meanwhile, she approached Mikado’s lips. The monster of the night was on top of him. Inside this dim darkness, her eyes shone with desire.

“Mikado-sama. Please, open your mouth...”

Her kind fingers moved on Mikado’s mouth. Not even allowing him to breath, Rinka had the liquid drop down from her tongue inside his

mouth. It was sweet, dangerously sweet. The second it passed down Mikado's throat, his body started to burn like a wildfire. He became more consciously of every part of his body that Rinka was touching.

"What...did you make me drink..."

"A juice that heightens your perception. Everything will start feeling better, but everything you dislike will become more apparent. Meaning, if you really hate me, Mikado-sama, you will want to throw me out of the room, that is the effect of this juice." Rinka used her tongue to lick up the rest of the juice that ran down from Mikado's mouth.

That alone was enough stimulation, forcing Mikado to grit his teeth to work against that.

"What do you think, Mikado-sama? Do you think of me as disgusting..." Rinka laid her eyes upon his, looking like she was about to break out in tears.

Seeing this, Mikado felt his chest hurt.

"As if...I'd think of you like this..."

"I am happy...I studied a lot, hoping that I would make you the happiest possible..."

Licking her lips, she let down a rain of soft kisses on Mikado's neck, the back of his ears, and his earlobes. Together with the tingling sensation he felt everywhere, the sounds of the sheets moving could be heard. Rinka's beautiful limbs were all over Mikado's body, revealing her affection. His consciousness got swallowed up by a scent obscene enough to bring back the dead.

"Mikado-samaaa...I want to...bear your children...Please, dye the deepest parts of my body with your color..." A desperate plea.

Mikado felt his head grow dizzy. He had prepared himself to be attacked at night, but Rnka using such measures was completely out of his range of expectations. His instincts as a mean were screaming to give in, but at the same time, the fact that he had a person he had feelings for fought against these instincts. He could not lose himself

now.

He was more than happy that a wonderful woman like Rinka would go this far to gain his heart, but exactly because of her being such a great person, he didn't want to hurt her in his irresponsibility. He wanted her to live a bright future. Hence, he started his counterattack. He had to render her powerless, so that the night would pass safely.

"Rinka!"

"Kya?!"

Mikado jumped up from the bed, and reversed the situation as he pushed Rinka onto the bed. The scenery opened up below him. The strings of her bra fell off her shoulders, revealing her two charming, snow white bulges beneath. Her beautiful Yamato Nadeshiko typical black hair was scattered on the sheets, looking like a sea of hair.

"Mikado...sama..."

Beneath Mikado's body, Rinka was moaning in anticipation. Beautiful beyond belief, Mikado felt the desire to make her his own right this moment. And she wished to become Mikado's. Her desire for him to do so was radiating from every fiber of her being. However, Mikado suppressed his desires, and instead spoke calmly.

"You really did something selfish here. It seems like you need to be educated a bit, how about it?"

"Y-Yes...Please, punish me to your heart's desire..." Rinka begged, her voice about to break off.

Apparently, she really was the type that wanted to be dominated. Her body was shaking in anticipation, her eyes gazing at Mikado. That was the girl's weakness. Grasping this, Mikado put his lips on her tender ears.

"Mmm...!" Rinka grasped Mikado's hand, as her legs ran up and down the sheets.

A truly sensitive reaction. The effects of his mysterious juice must

have set in for her as well. With her body smaller than Mikado's, the effect would come into place even more fiercely than in Mikado's case. The proof of that was found when Mikado softly bit into her lips, and she reflexively clung to him as she moaned.

"Mmm...mm...it feels...good...bite it, more...!"

"You're saying you want bite marks? What a perverted woman you are."

With these words, Rinka grew more intoxicated.

"Haaa...I-I have no apologies...I want you to bite me...give me marks that won't disappear for a lifetime..." Her slender waist was clinging to Mikado, almost desperately.

With her warmth almost directly transmitted to Mikado, he was about to lose himself, so he gave Rinka the final push, whispering at her ears.

"...You really are cute."

"...!!!"

Biting into her ear with all his might, Rinka's body jolted up from the pleasure. She clung to Mikado fiercely enough for him to be unable to breathe. A voice not turning into words leaked out from her mouth. After her body spasmed up and down a few times, Rinka stopped moving. No counterattack came.

"M-Mikado-sama...that's not fair...this much with just my ears..."

"...Sorry."

As an apology, Mikado gently put his hand on his fiancée's head. Though Mikado averted a worst-case scenario, his body was still boiling hot, fully overheating. If his response came only a few moments later, he might have truly lost himself. Mikado escaped from Rinka's grasp to get up from the bed, opening the refrigerator in the living room, drinking a sip of water, which greatly helped him in regaining his reason.

Thinking back to it, biting the ear of his fiancée was lewd beyond belief, but he couldn't come up with a better method before. Though the results worked out in the end, he still couldn't help but feel embarrassed. After satisfying his desire for cool fluid, Mikado brought another glass to Rinka.

"Drink this, it'll help you cool down."

"Thank you very much..." Rinka pushed herself up from the bed, and accepted the glass.

Cute drinking sounds rang out from her beautiful throat, and by the time the glass was empty, she let out a sigh.

"...That helped a lot."

Her face was still burning bright, and as she touched Mikado's fingers, who accepted the glass, she twitched again, but a more reasonable color had returned to her eyes. As Mikado sat back down on the bed, Rinka softly rested her body against his.

"...Why are you going this far? What made you fall for me this badly?"

"...Because you have been my prince ever since I met you."

"What do you mean?"

"Do you not remember? The words you have told me so long ago?"

"The words..."

Mikado looked through his memories, but found nothing that clicked. The Kitamikado and Shizukawa families had always been close, and they had met countless times at parties or such, so he might have said something.

"If you do not remember, then it cannot be helped. This is something I just kept in mind for all this time." Rinka pouted with her lips, resting her head on Mikado's thighs.

She acted oddly spoiled, as she kept her hands close to his knees.

“...Sorry.” Mikado could only gently run his hand over her head.

The distant waves were the only sounds filling the otherwise empty bedroom.

Meanwhile, inside the hotel next to the one of the two fiances, inside the suite on the highest floor. Having just returned from the sea, Mizuki turned into a sushi roll, as she laid on the floor. On top of having her body wrapped in a blanket, she was restrained even further by rope, on top of some thick chains, with a big, sturdy lock on them. In other words, she had no hopes of escaping. However, as one would expect, Mizuki was not bothered by this in the slightest.

“Eh, what?! What kind of play is this?! Am I going to be turned into a dumpling next?! At least make me delish!” She couldn’t be more nonchalant.

Even though Kisa was glaring down at her as fiercely as ever, she felt no sense of danger.

“Let me ask you one more time. What have you been doing all this time with Mikado?”

“I didn’t meet Mikado-kun~ When I was chasing after a crab, the boss of crabs appeared in front of me, so I had to fight that. Before I realized it, I was in America, in this city called London!”

“London is the capital of Great Britain!”

“Ah, really? Then I think it was the Catena Dziwulski!”

“The Catena Dziwulski is a chain of craters on the moon!” Kokage spoke up in protest.

Kisa, Mizuki, and Kokage all stayed in the same hotel. In order to avoid Mikado ending up as Rinka’s prey during this pre-honeymoon, the three of them came all the way over here from Japan. Though Kisa wasn’t sure why exactly Kokage of all people was joining them, having someone skilled at gathering information would surely not come at a loss.

“Stop spurting nonsense and tell me what happened! The two of you

went missing at the same time, so it's clear that you were together!"

"That's what you'd think, right? But, reality is more suspicious than fictionality, right! You see, Mikado-kun was actually abducted!"

"From what star did they come from?! Give me more details! Please!" Kokage jolted at the blanket dumpling.

"I might be willing to tell you...if you could show me how you act as a puppy, Kokage-chan~" Mizuki glanced over at Kokage.

"Woof! Woof woof!"

Thus, Kokage became a dog.

"Wahhhh, Kokage-chan is so cute! Come here, I'll love you lots!"

"Woof woof!"

However, Mizuki was still restrained by the blanket prison, so that proved impossible.

"Give it a rest already ! I want to know what happened between you and Mikado, not some stupid aliens!"

"Ehehe, I ain't telling you~ It's a secret between the two of us!"

"Ugh..."

Mizuki stuck out her tongue, to which a vein popped on Kisa's head. With a cold voice, she ordered.

"Kawaraya-san, do it."

"But..." Kokage hesitated.

"We aren't making any progress here. She needs to learn what comes after taking such an obstinate standing. Or...would you rather take her place, Kawaraya-san?"

"N-No, by any means no! I will do it!"

Kokage ran to a nearby table, picking up iron skewers from the

torture set presented on there. Following that, she approached Mizuki with the sharp skewers.

“K-Kokage-chan, don’t tell me...”

“I’m sorry! Kisa-chan ordered me to do this!”

To Mizuki’s shock, at the tip of the skewers...were bell peppers!

“Hyaaa?! No no no no no?! Please, anything but bell peppers! I can’t stand the scent!” Mizuki desperately tried to avert her face from the impending doom, but being restrained like a dumpling, she was not fully able to do so.

At the same time, Kisa just calmly crossed her arms, flashing a devilish smile.

“Fufufu...they’re bell peppers, perfectly prepared just for today, from the chef of this hotel. Isn’t their scent just wonderful...? From thorough organic cultivation, they allow a perfect scent of what a bell pepper should smell like...they’re really good for your body, you know...?”

Using organically cultivated vegetables as a means of torture, that’s Nanjou Kisa for you. This showed how professional the family was with anything torture related.

“No...Something big like that won’t fit...Save me, Mikado-kun...” Mizuki tried her hardest to resist the approaching bell pepper.

However, as if to crush her hopes—

“Apologies for making you wait. I have brought you the additional bell peppers.”

The doorbell rang, as the words of capital punishment arrived from across the door. The bell peppers on the cart were brought into the room, lined up on more than ten plates on the table. The trained staff didn’t even raise an eyebrow at the situation inside of the room, just leaving with a never-broken smile.

It wouldn’t be too far to say that around 95% of the air in the room

consisted of a strong bell peppers stench.

“I-I get it already...I give up...”

With her 14 years of hating bell peppers, fearing them more than her account being banned on her favorite mobile game, Mizuki admitted defeat.

“You could have just told us from the start to avoid all of this.” Kisa spoke down at her with a raised chin.

“But, is it really fine for me to tell you what Mikado-kun and I did? I feel like you’d suffer a heavy shock from it...”

“E-Eh, why?”

“Well...you know? You get what I’m saying, right...?” Mizuki’s cheeks turned red, as she fidgeted nervously.

She had the face of a woman, trying to hide a mistake with another man.

“Wait, I’ll mentally prepare myself,” Kisa said, as she picked up an electric saw from her torture tools.

“Why would you need this to mentally prepare yourself?!”

“If I have a saw like this, I don’t need anything else...”

“Onee-chan, you’re scary!”

“Don’t worry about me...I’m fine, I’m perfectly fine...”

“I’m worried about myself more than anything!”

“Now, say it, right now.”

Kisa didn’t expect Mikado and her little sister to have crossed the line, but she could never say for certain with that little sister of hers. Imagining the worst case scenario, the inside of her head went pitch black.

To that, Mizuki grinned.

“During the afternoon, Mikado-kun and I did some perverted stuff!”

“Sniff...” Tears fell from Kisa’s cheek.

“Have to kill...right now...”

Kisa readied the blade of the saw—at herself, about to press the switch.

“Onee-chan?! You’ll be the one to die if you do that, you know?!”

“It...doesn’t even matter...Mikado...Mikado isn’t a virgin anymore... he was stolen by some other woman...”

She was crying pretty hard. To that, Kokage muttered.

“Kisa-chan...you really like Mikado-kun, huh.”

“Silence! I’ll kill you!”

“I apologies for my mistakes so please don’t kill me Kisa-sama!”

Kokage escaped beneath the table, after Kisa pointed the saw blade at her. At the same time, Mizuki sighed.

“Onee-chan, I was just teasing you, so stop crying!”

“Teasing...?” Kisa wiped away her tears with the handle of the electric saw.

“Of course I was just joking. Mikado-kun isn’t the type of person to get swept along in a situation like that. It was quite the lovey-dovey atmosphere, but I couldn’t finish him off. I was just swimming with Mikado-kun, visiting a deserted island, and chasing crabs at the beach~”

“Really...?”

Mizuki nodded.

“Really really. It was really close though. I took him to a place with lots of lovey-dovey couples around, and invited him to do perverted stuff, but he said no~ What a shame!”

“I see...” Kisa sighed in relief.

She knew that Mikado was a proper man who wouldn't fall to such temptations, but from her point of view, her little sister was undoubtedly cute. Together with her friendly personality, men must think of her even more cute. Being actively sought out by Mizuki, no way Mikado would really hate it. He could just pick Mizuki easily, without having to go through this entire game thing. Kisa couldn't help but think that way.

“I confessed, so can I leave this blanket now? I can't feel my arms and legs anymore!”

“That's pretty dangerous, isn't it!” Kokage ran towards the sushi roll.

Together with Kisa's help, they took off the chains and ropes. Having been freed, Mizuki jumped onto the bed with momentum you wouldn't expect from someone who was just restrained like her. Neither did she pay any mind to the fact she was still wearing only her swimsuit.

“Alright, time to start the sleepover! It's my first time sleeping as the three of us, so I'm really excited! What should we do? What should we play?” Mizuki jumped up and down on the bed.

Kokage puzzled over this.

“U-Um...what about some...channeling?”

“Sounds great! Let's talk with some aliens!”

“So you were interested in this sort of thing, Mizuki-san! If so, I can lend you the countless monthly magazines I gathered over the last ten years!”

“Really?! Can I burn them?!”

“Why would you burn them! Are you making fun of me?!”

“I mean, weren't we going to call the aliens with a giant fire?”

“We won't! Just read them normally!”

Mizuki and Kokage were excited, one way or another. The atmosphere had turned into one of a pyjama party, which Kisa wasn't exactly a fan of.



“We’re not here to play around! Do you two remember the goal of our trip?!”

Kokage opened her eyes wide, putting one hand on her mouth.

“That’s right! I was here to take some great pictures of Mikado-kun!”

“Not that! We’re here to stop the pre-honeymoon of Mikado and Shizukawa-san!”

“Even though it’s their own trip?”

“I-It’s to stop any possible accidents from occurring!”

Mizuki crossed her arms, and slightly tilted her head.

“Hmmm, isn’t it already too late for that? Mikado-kun and Rinka-chan are probably going at it right now.”

“They aren’t! Definitely not!” Kisa emphasized with tears in her eyes, but she couldn’t say it for sure.

If they were to truly love the other, there were no walls in the way, looking at the two families they were from. On top of that, Rinka was a beauty to behold, always approaching Mikado with all her might. Leave the two alone for a longer period of time, it would be hard to assume that no accident might happen. That is why she came here in the first place.

“Anyway, we have to be aware of Shizukawa-san’s next move! We have to be ready to always intercept them!”

“Intercept them?! What if they are naked and in the middle of it?!”

“Then I’ll kill Mikado and myself after!”

Scared to actually run into a situation such as that, Kisa was running away from really invading their room.

Mikado’s consciousness slowly returned from his slumber. At his lower back, he felt a soft and comfortable sensation. The faint sunlight shining in from the window, as well as the different scent from his own bedroom, told him that they were still in a southern country.

Mikado remembered that he came here for his pre-honeymoon with Rinka. Last night, he had to fight the girl's thorough attack, but somehow managed to make it out. He prayed that things stayed the same for the other few days.

At the same time, he felt something tickling his feet. Something small, running up and down, together with an odd, indescribable sound. A slipper sensation gently tickled his ankle. It wasn't like he hated the sensation, but it was something he hadn't felt before.

—A dog...? Or some apparition...?

Slowly opening his eyes, Mikado checked his feet.

“Fuah...Mikado-shama...Good morning...” While licking Mikado's feet, Rinka gave him a greeting.

As expected of the always clean and proper young lady from the Shizukawa Family, she was already perfectly dressed in a beautiful morning one-piece, her hair in perfect order. In other words, a perfect Yamato Nadeshiko. However, she was licking and slurping on Mikado's feet like she was on kelp.

“Ah...ahh...ahhhhh...?!” A meek face leaked out of Mikado's mouth.

Because of this unprecedented sigh, he couldn't find any words.

“What happened, Mikado-sama? Did you have a bad dream by any chance?” Rinka ran her tongue along his lower leg, as she tilted her beautiful head.

“What...are you doing?!”

“Me? I was looking forward to our second day of the trip so very much, which is why I went to check the preparations as early as possible.”

“Not that! Right now! This very moment is what I'm asking!”

Rinka smiled as calm as she could.

“I am eating breakfast.”

“My leg is?!” Mikado felt scared for his life, imagining being eaten by his fiancée on their pre-honeymoon.

To that, Rinka awkwardly cleared her throat.

“Excuse me. I saw that you were sweating in your sleep, so I thought of wiping that, but I couldn’t allow the towel to take in all that precious sweat of yours.”

“What in the world are you talking about?”

Even though he tried to his utmost, Mikado was unable to grasp the words of his fiancée. Every person had their own thought process, but Mikado’s ability to grasp that was reaching its limit here.

“I just took a small sample before I wanted to start wiping you dry with the towel...but it was too delicious I was about to gobble you up.”

“...?!”

Before he realized it, Mikado had lost his bathrobe, merely wearing a single pair of trunks. This was the reason he felt so wet and slimy all over his chest and waist.

“Do please wait a moment...I will finish licking the rest...” Rinka moved her tongue across the back of Mikado’s leg.

“Stop licking already! How can you just calmly continue like that! My legs are dirty, aren’t they!”

“Do not worry...Mmm...because your leg is more beautiful than any treasure the heavens above could grant me...**Lick lick**...Ah, so delicious...” The girl’s red tongue tickled Mikado’s toes, going in between the gaps, drenching them in her saliva.

Every time she did so, a shiver ran down Mikado’s spine.

“Mmm...mmm...Mikado-sama, your toes...so sturdy...”

“Don’t...phrase it so weirdly...”

His fiance pressed her nose directly on his toes, making him feel the cold, pleasurable sensation.

“I cannot help it...your wonderful feet are seducing me...”

“I don’t remember seducing you! You’re telling me to put on socks while I’m sleeping?!”

Rinka gulped up Mikado’s big toe, audibly slurping on it. Her sweet teeth stimulated Mikado’s skin, as she gasped for some air.

“Mikado-sama...next is...this...”

Rinka started running her tongue along Mikado’s thighs.

“Pull yourself together already!!”

Mikado grew desperate to stop his fiance from pulling down his trunks.

Ten minutes later. In order to heighten his defense, Mikado put on some proper clothes, and now sat across the table from Rinka in the reception hall.

“I have no words...Mikado-sama, my apologies, I completely lost myself there.”

“It’s fine as long as you’ve calmed down...”

“Yes, that I did...” Rinka smiled awkwardly.

Though Mikado was a bit worried about Rinka, seeing how far she went just by losing herself, and even pondered if she had really lost herself, but not like he would be given a good response even if he asked. Just having been saved from that situation was enough for him.

“What are we doing today? I figure that going to the sea two days in a row must be tough on you, so maybe we can just walk around the city a bit, or visit the nearby ruins. I looked up a few routes that you might like.”

“My...going this far just for me?”

“Well, it’s a trip, so I at least wanted you to be satisfied.”

Rinka’s eyes lit up.

“Thank you very much...just for my sake...”

“It’s our pre-honeymoon, but we’re not going to do anything much like fiances, so this is the least I can do. If it makes you happy, I’m open...to a few things.”

Rinka brought her body closer.

“Then, a kiss please...!”

“Nope.”

“...Hmpf.”

The gesture of Rinka puffing out her cheeks was awfully cute.

“And, what do you want to do?”

“The thing is...I feel bad for crushing all your plans, but the plane and lodging receptions were a bit dangerous, so we have to leave this island today.”

“Really? Weren’t we going to Prince Edward Island¹ next?”

“No, that’s...we changed the target location to Cotswolds...”

“Britain?! That sure is abrupt?!”

Crossing the Atlantic which had been the stage of [Anne of Green Gables²], they would be heading to the renowned most beautiful village in England, Cotswolds. Though Mikado wasn’t exactly involved with the planning of this trip, the reservations apparently were playing against them.

“Well, alright. I’ll hurry with my packing.”

“No, the packing has already been finished.”

“Huh?!”

“The shipping has been taken care of while you were asleep, Mikado-sama. All we have to do is head onto the plane. I have the tickets with me. We will depart at 3pm today.” Rinka put her hand on the bag close to her.

Now that she mentioned it, the suite was awfully clean and tidy. He couldn’t find the travelling case he brought with him either, and neither did his swimsuit. He had just assumed that a maid took care of that.

“...Night flight?”

“It is morning though?”

“That is not what I meant! I’m saying that this is awfully sudden, don’t you agree?!”

“C-Could you maybe keep your voice down...?”

“...Huh?” Mikado narrowed his eyebrow at the suspicious reaction of Rinka.

Something was off. Maybe she was wary of someone possibly watching them, someone hostile. Aiming for the time when they would be far away from Japan, wanting to erase the successors of two of Japan’s most influential families.

From inside the handbag of Rinka, Mikado heard the sound of an incoming call, which Rinka accepted quickly after.

“...Yes. So the route is complete. Currently, there is no movement on the other side. I understand. Good work. Please keep watch until the final end.” Hanging up the call, Rinka tightly grasped her smartphone, looking at Mikado. “Mikado-sama, let us hurry!”

“..Yeah.”

Deciding that he’d ask for more detail later, Mikado left the suite behind him.

The limousine with Mikado and Rinka on them separated from the hotel. Waiting for the distance to grow a bit further, Kisa gave instructions to her driver.

“Now, follow them. So that they don’t leave us behind. Do well, and you get a reward. Fail, and you’ll be sleeping with the fish.”

“R-Roger!” The driver tightly grasped the steering wheel with a terrified expression, starting the car.

Besides Kisa, Mizuki and Kokage were also present in the car.

“Woah, this is my first time driving in a car like this!”

“Me too! Also...isn’t this a police car?!”

Exactly it was. On a side note, the driver was an actual police officer. With a gun pressed to his neck by Kisa, he was holding onto the steering wheel as he was shaking in his boots.

“To track someone, a police car is the most efficient. We don’t have to regard traffic rules, and the target will have to obey those. Perfect to follow Mikado.”

“That might be true, but...how did you even get this cop to...”

“Fufu, you want to hear? Well, I took his family hostage, and—”

“I didn’t want to hear that, and I feel horribly bad for this person!” Kokage covered both her ears with her hands, denying any new information.

“The effort was worth it. If he knows too much, he’ll be involved, so we can only make him one of us. On a side note, the family of this officer was captured by Sigma, and taken on a free of charge shark cruise...”

“Don’t just keep talking about it, I’ll have nightmares!”

Kisa tried to pull Kokage’s hands off her ears as she kept talking. At the same time, the poor driver, aka police officer, was praying to god. He was looking at a family portrait on the dashboard, making a cross

with his finger. Mizuki was just fiddling on her phone, putting it to her ear.

“Ah, Mikado-kun? What are you doing right now?”

“What are **you** doing, Mizuki?!” Kisa’s eyes opened wide as she stared at Mizuki in disbelief.

Calling something during one’s tailing, how careless could she be. Apparently, the hotel Kisa and the others stayed at was supervised by subordinates from the Shizukawa Family—probably to allow them a quick escape if necessary—as the room was equipped with speakers and infrared sensors. Hence, Rinka should still be under the impression that Kisa and the gang were still in the hotel room, but now they ran the risk of her finding out they were not.

A voice came from the smartphone.

「Right now...we’re apparently being targeted by some people, so we’re on the run」

“Ah, that might actually be uguh?!”

The ‘uguh’ in the end resulted from Kisa grabbing Mizuki’s neck to quickly silence her.

「What happened? That was a weird voice just now... it might be uguh?」

“Cough cough, I wasn’t sounding lewd at all, Mikado-kun!”

「Nobody mentioned anything of lewd!」

“Yeah, I’d only make a voice like that if I was with Mikado-kun! Like that one night ago...right?” Mizuki softly whispered into the smartphone.

「That one night ago nothing happened! What are you doing anyway? I can hear a lot of noise on your end...」

“We’re playing a game of tag! The one hunting is Onee-chan, and Mikado-kun is the one running awa—”

Kisa forcefully stole the smartphone from Mizuki's hands, and hung up the call.

Finishing the check-in in a rather rushed way, Mikado and Rinka boarded the plane. The faces of the guests were sleepy as expected, seeing how early they were departing, but Mikado himself was wide awake. With this unknown threat chasing them, his entire body was in a battle mode. Sitting on his designated seat, whilst checking his surroundings for safety, he asked Rinka.

“...Tell me the current situation. Who is aiming for us? Is it the Nagata party who's against my father, the Rilke Union who disagrees with our country's taxes, or someone who is against our two families becoming one?”

“It is...none of those.” Rinka tightly formed fists with both her hands.

“Then, who is it? In order to properly protect you, I have to know who I'm dealing with. I can't have you end up hurt because of my unawareness.” Mikado repeated himself, which led Rinka to narrow her eyes.

“I-I have no excuses...They are not...an armed force...No, they might be, but not an organization that would harm you...”

“How does that make any sense...?” Mikado tilted his head.

“T-The thing is...I wanted to be alone with Mikado-sama. Not being bothered like we were yesterday, not having my husband return early in the morning...I want to have you all to me...that's why I wanted to run away to a place without Kisa-san and the others around...”

“...I see.”

Though Mikado didn't know what methods she had used, Kisa and found out the exact location of their pre-honeymoon, meaning that you wouldn't be able to shake them off this easily. If they escaped early in the morning, Rinka hoped they wouldn't be able to catch up fast enough, not coming up with any countermeasures.

“Mikado-sama...you must be...angry, right? Because I am this selfish...” Rinka's shoulders were shaking in fear, as she looked up at

Mikado.

In return to that, Mikado softly smiled.

“Why would I be angry? I’m just glad that it’s nothing dangerous.”

“You are willing to forgive me?!” Rinka’s eyes opened wide.

“I mean, it makes sense that you’d want to be alone during our pre-honeymoon. Rather, I have to apologize for not helping you out in that.”

“No! You haven’t done anything wrong, Mikado-sama! Ahh, how kind you are...! Let us enjoy the rest of our trip! We will not sleep again at night!”

“...No, let’s properly sleep, okay?” Mikado feared he might have woken up the beast.

Out of happiness, Rinka even went to rub her face against his chest. At the same time, Mikado didn’t want to get her hopes up even further, left unable to even embrace her shoulder.

“Haa...this is like a dream...a trip only with me and Mikado-sama... Now Kisa-san and the others definitely won’t be able to bother us...”

“My, what was that about us?”

“Kyaaaaaaaaa?!”

Kisa’s voice suddenly came from the seat next to them, which led Rinka to let out a shriek. Past the two neighbouring seats of Mikado and Rika, at the aisle seat, Kisa gracefully sat down, gazing over at the two.

In fear, Rinka clung to Mikado’s side.

“What is this about?! Why is Kisa-san here with us?!”

“I just came past here on a walk. Then I spotted a chair that looked comfortable, and decided to take a break.”

“Why would you pass a plane during your walk?! You were tailing us, weren’t you! Even though I tried my best to keep it secret!”

“I would appreciate it if you weren’t talking badly about me. I would never tail you. Rather, I am surprised to find you here...are you a stalker?”

“Why would I end up as the stalker!”

As the two of them were in a harsh verbal battle, Mizuki approached them.

“Mikado-kun! Thanks for waiting, now carry me in your arms!”

Jumping over Rinka’s seat, Mizuki landed directly on Mikado’s lap.

“Mizuki?! Weren’t you playing a game of tag?!”

“I am! And now I caught you, Mikado-kun!” Mizuki clung to Mikado as she sat on his lap, rubbing her face against his chest.

“U-Um...excuse me...”

Even Kokage joined them, carrying some heavy-looking luggage. Sitting down behind Kisa, she took out her camera. In other words, they were the same members as always.

“How...could this happen...!” Rinka tried to suppress the tears.

“Who cares, who cares! Keeping Mikado-kun to yourself is not a good thing! Playing with everyone is much more fun! We can play cards, and the one losing has to jump off the plane!”

“So if I lose, I’ll die?!” Kokage jolted up in fear.

“If you open the window up in the air, we all will die!” Mikado tried to tear away Mizuki from his lap, but she desperately clung to him.

“This isn’t some sleepover party! Also, the company here belongs to the Shizukawa Conglomerate, so I’ll have you forcefully leave the plane!” Rinka pressed the call button above her.

However, no matter how long she waited, no stewardess or anyone comparable arrived. Instead, the rows of seats filled with guests, paired with the sound of the doors closing, as an employee stood in front of them.

“Alright, y’all! Turn off your phones, and hand them to me!”

A few brusque men lined up. They had ammunition belts around their waists, carrying submachine guns in their arms. Wearing pitch-black masks on their faces, only their eyes were clearly visible. They looked awfully muscular, with her arms as thick as a log, a black light radiating in their eyes. It was plain as day that they did not belong to the normal range of guests.

Kisa softly tilted her head, as she thought of his as suspicious.

“I understand that you would turn off your phones during your flight, but having them collected, isn’t that going too far? Not to mention how that guy was talking...Recently flight attendants sure have gotten rude.”

“They clearly aren’t flight attendants! This feels more like the plane is being hijacked!”

“Hijacked...? What a foreign name, is that a friend of yours, Mikado?”

“I don’t have any friends who’d get reported by walking around like this near a school!” Mikado turned around to gaze into the plane’s interior.

Three armed people next to the flight attendant. A guard standing in front of the door. And, although they aren’t openly armed, two other people in the back rows, keeping eye contact with the hijackers. Basically, there was no way of escaping this place. Though Mikado probably would be able to take care of these people himself, he couldn’t risk having the other passengers end up as victims, so no rash movement from him just yet.

At the same time, the passengers have caught on to the current situation, breaking out in a panic.

“Annoying! Hand over your phones already! If you try anything, you’ll be dead meat!”

One of the hijackers raised his voice in a warning. The passengers listened in fear, and did as they were told. Without any announcement, the plane started accelerating, slowly drifting into the air. Mikado assumed that the pilot was being forced as well, seeing that the plane showed rather ridiculous movement, as his back was pressed against the seat.

“Mi...kado...sama...” Rinka clung to Mikado’s arm in fear.

“It’s fine. I will not let them lay a finger on you.” Mikado tried to calm her down, as he covered Mizuki in his arms.

Looking over at Kisa, she showed a similar reaction to Rinka. And who could blame her. She might be the successor of the Queen of Darkness, but she was the strategic type, not fit for any fight like this. No way to win against people with submachine guns like them.

—I have to get them all home safely.

Mikado muttered to himself. Meanwhile, the hijackers collected the smartphones, putting them all into a bag. One of the men, carrying a big knife, made his way towards Kokage, grabbing her at the nape of her neck.

“Eek?! What?! I’m not delicious at all!” Kokage screamed with tears in her eyes, shaking wildly, just as her breasts as a result.

Watching this, Mikado wondered if that very action didn’t actually make her more delicious for the hijacker, while praying that she’d calm down a bit.

“Keep it quiet! You got a death wish or something?”

“Eek...”

Having the knife of the hijacker pressed against her throat, Kokage couldn’t even muster up a voice anymore. She pressed both her hands on her mouth, so much that she even stopped breathing.

“You don’t have to go that far! A hostage dying from suffocation would only give us more trouble!”

“Y-Yesh, I’m sowwy!”

Showered by the rage of the hijacker, Kokage removed her hands from her mouth, taking a deep breath. Following that, he took Kokage away from that place, somewhere deeper into the plane.

—Seems like they aren’t the type to use futile violence...

Mikado analyzed that situation. Fearing the loss of a hostage showed they were professionals. Though they were easier to read as a result of that, creating an opening for a moment to strike made it harder to act. On top of that, pros would pull through with their words. Cross their ultimatum, and you’ll suffer.

“...Kisa.”

Making sure that nobody heard him, Mikado called out to her, his gaze still forward.

“W-What?” Kisa returned a nervous voice.

“Their goal with this, what kind of organization they are, do you have any information about them? You must be more familiar with any groups like them.”

“No clue. I mostly got down every Japanese organization, and the weapons plus tactics they use, but this being a different country, they can get guns without having to pass them through our family.”

“I see...”

Mikado wanted to get at least some information about these people, but this just meant that he couldn’t act rashly. Meanwhile, one of the hijackers approached them.

“Now then...how about we start?” He put his hand into his khaki-colored pants, taking out a small box.

Written on this small box was [BOCKY³], a type of sweet loved very

much by the Japanese. He pulled out one bocky stick, and pointed it at Mikado.

“Listen carefully. You’ll take this end into your mouth, slowly eating away at it, while someone else will do on the other hand. The one having eaten the most will be the winner, whereas the loser will be killed. Got it?”

“Um...” Mikado was at a loss.

“So you don’t get it. You take this end into your mouth, and—”

“I get it! I get what you’re saying, but I don’t understand why!”

The images of possible goals of this hijacking inside Mikado’s head all grew blurry. He knew how the rules worked, because he had heard about this game from the boys in his class.

“Isn’t this basically...”

“Indeed, the bocky game.” The hijacker put up his thumb.

“Why play this game in a situation like this...?”

“It’s the BOCKY GAME⁴.”

“Why would you repeat it again?!”

“Just shut up, and put my bocky stick in your mouth!”

Mikado was forced to bite on the bocky stick.

“Stop! Don’t force Mikado-kun to gulp down your bocky stick!” Mizuki tried to jump in to provide assistance, but she was just pushed away by the criminal’s hairy hand.

Mizuki fell onto the floor, to which Rinka let out a shriek, and Kokage had her arms restrained behind her back. The other guests were all forced to stay in their seats. Though Mikado was still more than confused about the intention of this mysterious enemy, in order to lessen the amount of possible victims, he couldn’t rebel just yet. Hence, he took the bocky stick into his mouth, and glared at the

hijacker.

“I did as you told me.”

“Keke, good guy. That bocky stick really fits you...The most in the entire world...”

“I ain’t happy about that compliment!”

“Then, your partner will be...that woman over there!”

“Me?!” Kisa’s shoulders twitched as she was pointed at.

Mikado tightened his fists. Kisa was the one person he didn’t want to be fighting against. Kisa could not be allowed to die here at any costs. But, if Mikado lost, he would suffer a terrible fate. He would probably be able to avoid it, but other guests could be hit in the process. Mikado was taken by the hijacker, forced to sit on the floor.

“H-Here I go...?” Kisa bit down on the other end of the bocky stick.

Their eyes met at close distance.

—Right in the middle. Aim for that spot.

This was the only chance to save Kisa’s life, as well as guarantee the safety of the other passengers. He just wished that Kisa picked up on his intention.



Kisa's face grew terribly flushed, but her eyes were saying 'I got it', leaving Mikado relieved.

"Now, start! Your death bocky game, that is!" The order of the hijacker resounded in the plane.

With that, Kisa started munching at the bocky stick. At horrifying speed, as if she was desperate. That did make her look adorable, but

Mikado wasn't in the position to enjoy that.

—She didn't get it at all!

Mikado panicked. At this rate, Mikado will end up as the victim, bullets being fired through a passenger-filled plane. Hence, he had to quickly catch up with Kisa. Their faces came closer, and at a distance close enough for their lips to touch, they froze up. He could see Kisa's beautiful, clear eyes, radiating like a gem. A faint breath leaking from her lovable nasal cavity. Her plump, red lips were seducing Mikado, asking him to move closer. Yet, neither of them moved. If they were to move, their lips would overlap, and they would kiss. Then again, Mikado was not too perpetuated by that thought, as his heartbeat accelerated. He wondered if a kiss would be allowed in a situation like this. At the very least, her eyes showed no signs of rejection.

—No, I can't!

Mikado resorted to his last ounce of willpower, and bit off the bocky stick. A bit later after that, Kisa did the same. Only a small piece fell to the ground, with a length of maybe five millimeters.

“Hm, a draw!”

The hijacker raised both his hands to announce the result. Mikado and Kisa on their last breaths, as they separated.

“According to the rules, the loser was supposed to get shot, but now that we ended up in a draw, nothing will happen, right?”

The hijacker nodded.

“Yeah, exactly. That being said, let's stop with the idle talk. Mikado Kitamikado, we want the information you have.”

“.....!”

—So it's finally come, Mikado thought.

Hijacking a plane just for a bocky game was unthinkable. It was probably just a poor attempt of lowering Mikado's mental strength so that they could play him better. As the successor of the Kitamikado

Family, reigning the political world of Japan, Mikado possessed countless secrets. Private locations of influential people, the place of the safety shelter for the government, plans that reach around 100 years into the future, and many many more.

However, the one thing he could not leak was any information about a weapon of mass destruction, put into research from the Japanese government in order to guarantee the safety of its own people. If he were to reveal this, the future of Japan would be in grave danger.

Mikado glared back at the hijacker, forming fists with his hands. Whatever question they might have, he was ready to accept it, and answer to the best of his ability. Additionally, the hijacker pointed the knife at Kokage, starting his words.

“If you don’t want this girl to end up dead, tell me.”

“What is it?”

Mikado once again checked the position of the perpetrators inside the plane, reading himself to always be able to intercept.

“Mikado...say, who is the girl you like right now.”

“.....Huh?” Mikado spaced out.

“I’m asking about the girl you like. When you spend time with her, your heart goes doki doki, and you wish time would just stop moving, you have someone like that, right?! Say it!”

“The way you ask makes you sound like a maiden!”

Mikado was at an absolute loss. The man in front of him, resembling a gorilla with his physique, was asking something you’d hear during a girl’s sleepover. That made things even worse. For Mikado, he would have preferred to be questioned about the weapon of mass destruction.

“Maiden...? Both genders can fall in love! Are you trying to differentiate between man and woman?! That there is a manly, and maiden-like way to ask these things? What prejudice! Aren’t you embarrassed?! Go with the times, you old man!”

“Why am I being lectured about this?!”

“No more differentiation! No more prejudices!” The man, holding a submachine gun, was preaching about human rights.

“M-Mikado-kun... “ Kokage begged for help, tears in her eyes.

“Mikado! Hurry up and tell him! Who is the girl you like! This isn’t the time to be embarrassed! Kawaraya-san’s life depends on it! Now, hurry!” Kisa urged Mikado, her eyes sparkling.

“Tell us, or this girl here will die!” The hijacker equally put pressure on him.

So did the other passengers, as they screamed.

“It’s not that big of a deal!”

“Right right! This isn’t the time to be holding back!”

“Don’t agitate them even more!”

“What will you do if the baby got shot?!”

“You can do it, virgin!”

“Be courageous, virgin!”

“Virgin! Virgin!”

A storm of insults came raining down on Mikado, urging him to confess already. It was overwhelming pressure. The muzzle of the man’s submachine gun was turning towards Kokage as well. Any normal person would have been swept along this irregular situation. Several factors would be working to destroy the rational thinking of the person.

—No no no no no! This is definitely weird!!

However, Mikado was not just a normal person. There were countless times he was met with criminals or armed forces like this, so he wasn’t just going to break from a gun pointed at him. Though the

bocky game caught him off-guard, a good portion of his rational thinking was still working.

And, the truth was right in front of him. Who would be going this far just to create a situation like this. Who would benefit the most from a situation like this. Who always succeeded at playing weak and scared, who Mikado assumed to be the one he had to protect, but actually pulled the strings behind the scenes.

Nanjou Kisa. As the future Empress of Darkness, she was the ruler of the current battlefield. Everything worked according to her plan. Now that he found out, Mikado didn't have to worry about the passengers, the hostage, or Kisa even. She might be the successor of the Nanjou Family, but she would not dare hurt anybody that was important to Mikado, as this would lower her chances of winning the love game. Hence, he could relax, and just calmly make his way towards Kokage.

“M-Mikado?! What are you doing?!”

“Mikado-kun! That's dangerous!”

Both Kisa and Mikado let out worried voices.

“Don't move! Do you not care about this girl's life?!”

The hijacker restricting Kokage pointed the blade of his knife at Mikado, but he showed no signs of stopping. Jumping into the air, he kicked down the knife, deep into the ground to make sure it doesn't hit any passengers, whereas he delivered a strike to the skull of the hijacker with his free leg, rendering him useless as he dropped to the ground. Kokage fell out from the hands of said hijacker, and Mikado carefully caught her, whispering to her ears.

“You hurt anywhere?”

“I-I'm fine...” Kokage's cheeks slightly turned red.

“You must have been scared, but it's fine now. If I'm right, all these people here are Kisa's subordinates, so they will not become too aggressive with us.”

“Fueh?! Knowing that they are Kisa-chan’s subordinates makes it even more scary though!”

“Shhh...” Mikado closed off Kokage’s mouth with his fingers, to which she started blushing even more furiously.

Feeling bad to cut off her air supply, Mikado took away his hand again.

“Until this situation calms down, you’re better off hiding below the seats. Can you do that?”

“L-Leave it to me! I’m fairly skilled at hiding!”

Something in the form of a tube flew past Kokage. It was something looking like a flash grenade.

“H-Hey, not inside the pla—”

Mikado tried to warn them, but the projectile already hit the floor. This time, he was quick enough to react, able to guard himself against the impending flash of light. However, that couldn’t be said about the rest of the passengers, as he heard shrieks of terror. When he opened his eyes, his surroundings were blinded by white smoke.

“What happened?!”

“Did someone smuggle an explosive in here?!”

“Is there an idiot who’d use that mid-air inside a plane?!”

“Shit, I can’t see anything!”

He heard the curses from the hijackers.

—No other choice but to see this through!

He still had the locations of the hijackers in his head, and he could faintly make them out inside the smoke. Hence, he dashed through the smoke, trying to render the hijacker useless.

“B-Bastard! What are you doing?!”

Stealing the submachine gun from one, he made certain. It was too light, so probably no bullets inside. And that was to be expected, if bullets strayed off, creating holes in the walls of the plane, everybody would be blown outside, dying a certain death. Kisa was not stupid enough to let such risks be unattended. The gun was just a fake, to threaten them. Hence, there was no need to be careful of them, not having to worry about the other passengers.

Now that he thought about it, the knife he kicked was awfully light as well. That must have been an imitation. In other words, Mikado could go wild as much as he wanted. He swung away the ruffian together with the machine gun, slamming him on the ground. In that fragment of a second, the ruffian was rendered defenseless, so he picked him up, slamming his head against the wall to completely knock him out.

Running towards the door, he dislocated the joint of another ruffian who was about to take out his knife, as well as his knees, leaving him unable to move. That made four of them. Mikado hurried back to the deeper part of the plane, as he was attacked by two passengers—the other two hijackers disguised as them, taking care of the both at the same time. Now all six hijackers he had been aware of were out cold.

“Rinka, hurry!”

“Yes!”

Mikado took Rinka’s hand as he ran through the corridor, entering the cockpit. He quickly looked around to figure out the situation, but he couldn’t find anyone armed. Only the pilot and co-pilot sitting on their seats. Seems like they were safe as well. At the same time, Kokage, Mizuki, and Kisa all stormed into the cockpit as well.

“I-Is it over?!” Kokage asked with a drop of sweat running down her cheek.

“Mikado-kun, you were so cool! That’s the Mikado-kun I know and Love!” Mizuki jumped at Mikado’s waist.

“Thank god...I’m glad it didn’t turn out worse...” Kisa said, trying hard to keep her terrified expression.

She must be annoyed that her plan failed.

“Captain, we silenced the hijackers. Please fly to London just as planned.”

Hearing this, the pilot looked over his shoulders, checking the situation inside the cockpit. Seeing that it was only Mikado and the girls, he nodded.

“Thank you for your help. I will get us back on the line to London, so please return to your seats.” He sounded awfully calm, even though the plane had been under a hijack not even a few minutes ago.

Though Mikado was admiring this iron psyche, that didn’t stay for too long. Said pilot didn’t change the way of the plane at all, no matter how long he waited.

“H-Hey, Mikado. Aren’t we going back to our seats?” Kisa pulled on his sleeve, looking slightly confused.

“Right! Let’s play some cards, just standing around is tiring!”

So said Mizuki, but she was already lying on the floor, playing with her smartphone.

—Weird.

Mikado muttered to himself. Though he appreciated the pilot staying calm, he was a bit too relaxed. On top of that, why were there no hijackers inside the cockpit? Normally, you’d have to watch over the pilot so that he doesn’t try anything weird. On top of that, the gaze of the pilot didn’t wander towards Mikado or the entrance to the cockpit, but rather checking out Kisa. Feeling that something was off, he slowly approached the pilot’s seat. Putting one hand on his shoulders, Mikado muttered at his ears.

“Just where...are you taking us?” He said, with a deep, cold voice.

“...!”

He could tell that tension filled the pilot’s body. When Mikado put a bit more force into his grab, the pilot started shaking ever so slightly,

sweating profusely.

—No mistaking it, this pilot also belongs to the Nanjou Family.

That was dangerous. If he had left the pilot alone, he would have taken lord knows where. This was just like Kisa, stacking preparations upon preparations. Just because he took care of one obstacle didn't mean that he was safe. Rather, he couldn't trust anybody inside this plane anymore. The attendants, no, even the passengers, they might all belong to Kisa's plan.

“Bring us to the nearest airport. And don't even try anything fishy.” Mikado ordered the pilot.

“.....Understood.”

The pilot could only answer with a strained expression.

1 Province of Canada and one of the three Maritime provinces

2 Red-haired Anne

3 Parody of Pocky

4 Pocky Game

Chapter 3: Heaven

The plane lowered its altitude to approach the ground, and safely landed with a soft impact. With a thunderous roar, the inside of the machine shook ever so gently, as the plane decelerated. Finally, silence filled the atmosphere, as the plane came to a stop completely. The seatbelt warning on the ceiling disappeared. The airport was still a bit further into the distance, but the airstair was already opening up. With an order from Mikado, the pilot opened the door.

“We finally arrived...Now we can rest easy.” Rinka let out a relieved sigh.

“Yeah. This seems to be a bigger airport, so we should be fine from now on.” Mikado commented as he gazed outside the window.

In his pocket, he had his smartphone he took back from the hijacker. The pilot said he would be landing the machine at the Adelaide Airport, in South Australia. Since flying on a plane organized by the Nanjou Family would be the same as jumping off a bridge, they first had to change the plane in order to arrive safely.

“Ah! Our bus came!” Mizuki pointed outside the window.

An orange-colored bus came from the terminal. With exotic drawings and patterns on it, it sure didn’t feel like typical Japanese.

“No...wait a second.” Mikado felt like something was off.

Not about the exterior, but more about the interior. It was just for a short second, a fragment of a second rather, when Mikado felt like he something shine inside. Straining his eyes to the maximum of his ability, trained through the training of the Kitamikado Family, he saw it.

A few men inside the bus held guns. And they weren’t wearing police uniforms. Rather, they looked more like soldiers, assassins even. He’d make reason with it if the police came after hearing news about a hijacking. Though they themselves didn’t report it, maybe someone

from the passengers did. But, would the army really move? When the hijackers have been rendered useless already?

On top of that, Mikado spotted something that looked like a grenade launcher inside the bus, something a bit over the top to use against hijackers. Making sure that Kisa couldn't hear him, Mikado spoke up in a quiet voice.

"We can't ride on that bus."

"Eh...why is that...?" Rinka's eyes opened wide.

"Inside there is another armed squad consisting of Kisa's subordinates. They're probably here to finish what the hijackers couldn't."

"They're planning on doing something as well?!"

"Quiet. Kisa will realize."

"Ah..." Rinka closed her mouth, gazing over at Kisa.

This Kisa on her part was reading a magazine, as she yawned in disinterest. At first glance, it looked like she was just trying to pass the time, but Mikado clearly felt she was using every fiber of her being to try and anticipate their movement. Though nobody could tell, Mikado can. This was a necessary skill for the love game.

"...What happened?"

"There's a high chance the terminal is being occupied. Let's hide inside the city for a while now. Can you walk?."

"Of course."

"Then let's go!" Mikado grabbed Rinka's hand, dashing out of the cockpit.

"H-Hey, Mikado?!"

Kisa reflexively jumped up from the chair, but Mikado didn't give her any chance to follow them. Instead, he just sprinted down the

airstair, away from the plane.

“Don’t leave me alone, please!!” Kokage chased after them, down the airstair.

“If Mikado-kun is going, then so am I!” Mizuki on her part literally jumped down the airstair, landing on top of Mikado, clinging to his back.

“Sorry, Mizuki, but you have to stay behind! There’s a chance you’re conspiring with Kisa!”

Mikado hid himself next to a container on the way, aiming for the city he could see in the distance.

“I’m not doing any of that! What even is a conspiracy?”

“That you’re working together with Kisa on this whole hijacking and soldiers in the bus planning!”

“Why would I do that! I was just looking forward to travelling with Mikado-kun! Onee-chan is the only one who profited from the hijacking, right?”

“That...is true...”

“Then, why don’t you take my smartphone, Mikado-kun? Then I won’t be able to contact Onee-chan, right?” Mizuki put her oddly stylish decorated smartphone into Mikado’s shirt.

Because of the sudden cold sensation, Mikado’s shoulders jolted up.

“Don’t just put things in my clothes!”

“You can use my phone however you want, you know? Wanna see some sexy selfies of me in the bath?”

“I don’t need any of that!”

“There’s also some secret pictures I took from Onee-chan~”

“I...I don’t need any of that!” Mikado had to bite his lips in order to

withstand the temptation.

Peeking inside the smartphone of a girl was unbefitting of the Kitamikado Family's successor.

"Ohhhh? But, you just hesitated, didn't you? You want to take a look, right, Mikado-kun?"

"I don't!"

"If you just said so honestly, I would show you as many pictures as you want! Even some x-ray pictures at the doctor! She's got some great bones, I tell ya!"

"I seriously don't need that!"

At the same time, Mikado felt an odd urge to still see it, which left him slightly disgusted.

"Mikado-sama! The bus!"

Turning towards Rinka, running next to him, he spotted a few men pointing their guns at them outside the window, raising the danger of the situation even further.

"Seems like they want to greet us no matter what!"

Mikado picked up a wrench next to a container, throwing it at the bus as powerful as he could. Said wrench hit the front window, hitting the driver in the nose. Blood came gushing out, as he let go of the steering wheel. The bus lost control, rotating, and collided with the terminal. Screams of agony and explosions came from the bus.

"Woah, Mikado-kun doesn't hold back at all! But, I like that about you!" Mizuki clung to Mikado's neck.

"I don't have the time nor leisure to hold back!"

After all, more buses came to greet them. Like they were about to get taken down to hell. Protecting the girls with him, Mikado rushed down the runway.

Outside the airport, they were greeted by an European-looking city. The brick buildings all had pots with decorative plants on the windowsill. The pavement of the streets showed the times it had gone through, as the soft scent of black tea drifted through the air. Judging from the faces passing them, they could not say this was Europe for sure. People from Asia were mixed in, showing a deeper diversity than you'd think.

Having been able to escape from the chasing buses, Mikado and the others found themselves in a foreign environment.

"Is this really Australia...? I feel like the billboards around don't even have English words on them..." Kokage asked in a feeble tone, as she looked around.

Even as she was clearly scared and worried, she clung to the camera in her hands. That's the blood of an information broker for you.

"It seems to be a language akin to German, so it's not like it's unreadable... Though, I'm a bit worried if the pilot actually put us down at Adelaide Airport."

Since they were greeted by buses filled with Kisa's subordinates, the chances are high that this might not be the airport Mikado had instructed the pilot with.

"You got reception?" Mikado asked, to which Rinka shook her head.

"No, nothing. Though I have a contract that should allow me to use it even overseas..."

"Same here. Is it outside the area...?"

But, existed there really a country where you would get no reception at all, in this day and time? The surroundings looked like they had a certain level of civilization to them. Rather, it felt like they were more advanced than Japan here. Autonomous cars driven by only children, and unmanned convenience stores. No electrical lines to disturb the scenery, and the screens outside the restaurants showed the pictures of the delicious-looking food.

“Mikado-kun, let’s go eat over there!” Mizuki pulled on Mikado’s hand.

“This isn’t the time to be eating something, don’t you think? Now that we can’t use our phones, we have to find the Japanese embassy, and get some help from them. Get the police here to move so that we get a proper plane home.

“No no no! I’m hungry! Because we were chasing after you the entire morning, I didn’t get to eat anything! Take responsibility!”

“It’s my fault now?! We’re having an emergency here. Humans can live two months from just water, so put up with it for a day.”

“I-I’m pretty sure that’s just you, Mikado-kun...” commented Kokage, as her stomach grumbled.

“If you become a master, you can apparently live from just the nutrients in the air...but, I still have a long way to go until I get there.”

“You don’t have to master anything! And what kind of master is that anyway!” Kokage retorted on Mikado’s nonsense, who sighed in defeat.

“What about you, Rinka?”

“W-Well...It’s true that I am a bit hungry, but if Mikado-sama wishes for it, I will gladly starve to death!”

“So you’re starving, huh...”

“I have no words...” Rinka blushed.

If they all were this hungry, Mikado had no other choice but to think of the greater good. He assumed that a female body was just not made to survive for two months without food, like a male body was.

“Alright, then let’s eat something.”

“Yay! What should we eat~?” Mikzuki ran through the automatic door, inside the restaurant, to which Mikado and the others followed.

The store interior looked like a refined cafeteria, red tables going along the wide floor. Mikado sat down with Mizuki next to him, facing Rinka and Kokage, as they sat on a set of chairs, as the middle of the table opened with a slide, revealing a menu. Mizuki watched this, as she clapped her hands together.

“Wahhh, amazing! Restaurants really progressed a lot recently! Seeing something mysterious like this, I sure have lived a long life!”

“What are you saying, you middle-schooler.”

“Ahh, Mikado-kun is making fun of me! Also, I think I’ve lived a long life, you know! Could have been buried in concrete a few years ago already!”

“Sure sounds tough!” Mikado agreed from the bottom of his heart.

“Right right! That’s why, I wouldn’t mind if you proposed to me with a ‘The Nanjou Family sure sounds dangerous...Why don’t you join me in the Kitamikado Family? As my wife, of course’, how about it?!”

“Never!”

“I will be Mikado-sama’s wife!” Rinka protested vehemently.

“Ehh, why can it only be one wife? More wives, more fun, right, Kokage-chan!”

“W-Why are you pulling me into this mess?!” Kokage panicked, as she blushed furiously.

“Now, I wonder why~? I was just thinking to ask you~ Or this place, to be precise~!” Mizuki Leaned forward over the table, poking at Kokage’s well-endowed chest.

“A-Ah...Mizuki-chan...stop...”

“With what? Poking your breasts? Or rather, poking your breasts?”

“They’re both the same...” Kokage shivered at the pleasure and embarrassment.

“Stop it already, someone will call the police!” Mikado grabbed Mizuki’s hand, pushing her away.

“Sorry, Mikado-kun! I forgot that Kokage-chan’s breasts belong to you after all!”

“Ehhh?! Is that so?!”

“Is that so?! Whilst having a fiance like me...”

“As if! Don’t just get swept along, Rinka! Also, just go and order something already!” Mikado grew flustered, as he tried to switch the topic.

He didn’t want to bother Kokage too much, since she was not part of the love game, nothing more than a victim in all of this. The four of them called an employee to finish ordering. Offering Italian, French, Chinese, and even Japanese cuisine, the menu was quite the sight to behold. Whilst waiting for their food, Mikado remembered something he had meant to ask for a while.

“Say, Kwararaya, why did you even tag along with Kisa?”

“Huh...? W-Why...why would you ask that?” Kokage just returned the question in pure confusion.

“I mean, I was worried that Kisa might have forced you, or even threatened you. If not, there was no need to follow Rinka and me on our trip, right?”

“T-That’s...I wasn’t...threatened or anything...I just came with her out of my own free will...” Kokage pushed her finger tips against each other.

Seeing the universe and alien freak with such a cute gesture was quite the rarity.

“Out of your own free will? Why did you come here then?”

“E-Ehm...that’s...Ah...Well...” Kokage’s eyes were spinning, as she blushed even more furiously.

Maybe because of the sudden change of environment, her body couldn't come up with it. If so, he had to hurry and bring her to a doctor, but that could prove troublesome enough.



“You okay? Your face is burning up, you got a fever?”

“Hyaaaaa?!”

Mikado just softly put his hand on Kokage's forehead, to which she just jolted up, pulling her body back deeper into the chair. She waved both her hands, forcing out a voice.

"I-I-I don't have a fever! This is just an early stage before my head will explode, so nothing to worry about!"

"I'm worrying even more now!"

"It's normal, perfectly normal! This happens around five times every day!"

"Again, this is more than enough to make me worried!"

At the very least, Mikado had never seen something like this happen in front of him. And if it did, it would certainly haunt him forever.

"I take it back! The aliens were forcing me to chase after you, Mikado-kun! I was manipulated! Because otherwise, I would never do something like this..." Kokage buried her head in her arms on the table, her shoulders shaking.

"That's right, you couldn't help it." Mizuki softly tapped Kokage on the shoulder, with a kind gaze.

"To think that even Kawayaya-san..." Rinka looked perpetuated.

As they were conversing like this, the food was brought to the table. Mizuki had ordered a pizza with a heap of tomatoes, Kokage got Japanese littleneck clam spaghetti carbonara. Rinka on her part had noble-looking soba, and Mikado had originally ordered the ikizukuri¹ menu, but what stood in front of him was a living pirania on a plate. With gritting teeth, it was glaring up at Mikado.

"Um...this looks more like it's going to eat me than the other way around..."

"Fight, Mikado-kun! It's eat or be eaten!"

"Mikado-sama, you can do it! I'll support you with all my might!"

Mizuki and Rinka were gazing at Mikado with expectation.

“Uuuu...”

Meanwhile, Kokage was still hiding her face inside her arms, but her eyes were visibly red. Mikado found himself wanting to throw this plate out of the window, but the expectant gazes from the girls were torturing him. It was time for a battle of fish against humans. Something he had to stand proud for, as the man he was. Though he didn't know why.

“Onwards...to the common battle...!”

Mikado readied himself with a fork and knife, declaring war towards the pirania on the plate.

Finishing their energetic lunch, Mikado and the others stood up from their seats. All the plates left on the table were emptied to their fullest. Leaving any food behind in a foreign country would bring the Japanese to shame, yes. Needless to say, the pirania ikizukuri had been eaten as well, and Mikado still had some light wounds inside his mouth from the battle. The king was still too strong for Mikado, it seemed.

Moving to the cash register, Mikado remembered that they didn't finish adjusting the currency. Normally this was something they would have done at the airport, but with the whole escape from the buses, they didn't have the time to rest at the terminal. Just to try it out—

“Can we use this?” Mikado showed the employee banknotes from Micronesia, but they were rejected.

They had a rejection of a ‘The heck is this, boy?’ as they just shrugged. Seeing no other option, Mikado took out his credit card, and paid with that. Because they had enjoyed a fulfilling meal, they could thoroughly experience the beautiful scenery of the town. They couldn't do so before because they had to worry about escaping from the airport.

“Where are we going next~?”

“I'd like to visit the museum of this town.”

“As long as I am with Mikado-sama, anywhere is fine...”

The girls each were getting excited in their own way.

“We’re not here as tourists! We have to make sure that we get our luggage back, change the currency, and get guaranteed lodging in case we need it...Safety first, you know! We don’t even know what country this is.”

Mizuki pouted with her lips.

“Ehhh, who cares about that? This is earth! As long as we understand that, everything will work out, right?”

“That’s way to lax! We’re basically stranded here!”

Kokage jumped in.

“Isn’t this just like an abduction?! Maybe we are on another planet after all?!”

“Don’t look at me with those eyes! We’re not talking about aliens! You are all way too relaxed...” Mikado sighed in disbelief.

It’s a good thing that eating has healed their minds and hearts, and he was glad they weren’t scared in a situation like this, but he wished for a bit more tension from this.

The girls exchanged glances.

“I mean, that’s because...right?” Mizuki snickered.

“Yes!” Kokage nodded along.

“It’s because we have you with us, Mikado-sama. There is nothing we have to be afraid of.” Rinka said with a bright smile.

“Well...I’m happy you feel that way, but...” Mikado scratched his cheeks with mixed feelings.

Of course, he was on constant guard to avoid any danger for them, but being told like this still felt awkward. For now, Mikado decided

to look for the embassy, or any other place that might function as such, as they walked through the town. As he did, he heard suspicious machine sounds coming from all directions. That being said, Mikado didn't have any time to analyze the situation, as several cars appeared out of the blue, surrounding them.

Dust was whirled up into the air, and together with the squeaking sound of the tires followed the smell of them burning. Soldiers jumped out of the cars, pointing the muzzles of their guns at them.

"H-How were we found out...?" Rinka clung to Mikado's arm.

"I didn't do anything! I don't even have my phone with me!" Mizuki pleaded innocence.

"I know that...You didn't even have the time to secretly contact Kisa...You were way too engrossed with your pizza...maybe the surveillance cams?"

Kokage shook her head.

"There are no surveillance cameras set up around here! Neither Mizuki nor I have some as equipment!! As a pro, I can tell!"

"Kinda scared that you're this confident!"

"If you told me to, I'd put them inside the president of the US!"

"I don't need that! What would I do with that anyway!" Mikado tried to calm down Kokage, who got a bit too excited for her own good.

"I didn't even have any ill-will with it, but because I put a small camera into his tea, he suffered from intestinal obstruction, and everybody thought he was going to get assassinated..."

"For not having any ill-will, that sure was evil!"

"I was just curious as to what the inside of a stomach looked like."

"Don't involve some poor politician in that curiosity of yours!"

As they were exchanging words, a small group of soldiers approached

them. Putting it into numbers, they were a few hundred, way too large if they just wanted to deal with Mikado's group. That being said, they grew more and more. Not just from the military cars, not they even rained down from helicopters, and armored cars.

—Did they...find out because I used my credit card?

Arriving at one possible reason for this situation, a cold sweat ran down Mikado's back. The only ones able to do this would be a public investigation bureau. Does this mean that the Nanjou Family even had influence in a country this far away from Japan? If so, any rebellion would only hurt them more.

"I don't know where you're planning on taking us, but don't you dare lay a finger on my friends here. If you do that, I'll seriously become the enemy of your boss."

The person looking like the commander of this operation just snorted at Mikado's declaration.

"We have received orders to catch you all safely. That being said, you are not allowed to run away anymore. It's a ridiculous order, but we'd rather not get punished as a result, so could you just follow us."

"...Alright."

Mikado and the others were put into one escort-type car, brought away from the shopping district they were previously at. With the sirens going off, the residents and cars quickly went out of the way, allowing for smooth travel. They drove down the main street, until they arrived in front of a large building. Several minarets, giant castle walls, and guards on patrol. It was something like a palace. With the car approaching, the front gate was opened, along it to pass.

"Woah...it's a legit castle...I've never seen one in real..."

"I've been to several until now, but this really is an old castle, just like out of some movie."

Kokage already had her camera ready to take pictures, whereas Mikado forced her to take it down. Taking pictures on the way might just agitate the enemy. That being said, he could understand Kokage's

feelings. The garden they passed was filled with beautiful flowers. Nearby a water fountain, with an awfully symmetric statue.

Mikado and the others were taken out of the car, heading inside the palace under the instruction of a soldier.

“So the one who called us...is the royalty?”

Mikado asked, and received a nod from the soldier.

“Apparently, the Queen her Majesty wants to meet you.”

“Why us?”

“How would I know. Neither do I have to. I just fulfilled the order from the Majesty, and that’s all.” The soldier gave an immediate response.

Being called by someone higher-up than they imagined, Mikado and the others looked at each other. And yet, Mizuki’s eyes were sparkling from anticipation.

“The Queen! What kind of person is she?! Maybe the type to slap her subordinates with a whip?”

“I think that’s a different kind of queen!”

“It’s not impossible. In the past, there had been countless queens like these, reigning fiercely of her subordinates, punishing them in various ways...” Mikado argued.

“No...I didn’t mean it that way...”

“What did you mean then?” Mikado tilted his head as he asked.

“Eh, Mikado-kun, you don’t know? They step on men while wearing latex clothes!”

“I ask you to not sully Mikado-sama’s pure heart with any needless knowledge!”

Rinka closed off Mizuki’s mouth with the palm of her hand, which

she used to bite on it. She must have gotten hungry again. However, now that she started, Mikado wouldn't let off.

"If there's anything I don't know, then teach me. It might end up useful even in a situation like this. Rinka, what is this Queen you mentioned?"

Rinka started blushing.

"T-That's...I would rather show you when we share our night together..."

"Tell me right here, if possible."

"Right here?! It might damage your reputation, Mikado-sama!"

"I don't mind. It is only short-lived anyway, rather than a lifetime of shame. So please teach me about this different Queen from mine."

"If you find out, you will definitely live a lifetime of shame, Mikado-sama!"

".....?" Mikado was at a loss yet again.

Rinka on her hand looked like she was about to die from the embarrassment, whereas Mizuki was busy giggling to herself. Only Kokage joined Mikado, as a question mark floated above her head. He'd love to look it up on the internet, but taking out his smartphone could lead the soldiers to grow suspicious of him. Not to mention that he didn't get any signal ever since they came here, so he gave up and decided to look it up later.

As they walked along the path inside, they eventually arrived in front of a large door. A double-door clad in gold and silver.

—Now, will it be a demon, or a serpent. I hope it's someone easy to deal with.

Mikado gulped in anxiety. He could not judge as to how far the Queen was under the control of the Nanjou Family. Depending on her influence and interests, she might even enslave Mikado to pull him away from the Kitamikado Family, gaining control over them.

Either way, the guard opened the door, and Mikado set foot forth, the others following him. The small opening acted as a window, allowing Mikado take a peek at the awfully surreal scenery. Four chandeliers hung down from the ceiling on the right and left alike, and following a short path, he found a throne. The one gazing down at her visitors with her chin raised high was—

“I’ve been waiting for you, Mikado. I hope you enjoyed my kingdom.”

“Kisa?!” Mikado doubted his eyes. “Why are you sitting there...? The Queen of this country was supposed to have called us here.”

“Indeed, that I did.” Kisa supported her mouth with the back of her hand, as she flashed a devilish smile.

“Then, bring out the Queen, I want to negotiate with her.”

“You still don’t understand? I am the Queen here, the Queen of the Kingdom of Glorious, Nanjou Kisa.”

“Kingdom of Glorious...?”

Mikado remembered that name. It was a small country to the southeast of Asia. Having been governed by Europe before, the civilization is less asian and more european. Being rather small, they possessed crucial resources which allowed them a certain level of influence in the international community, but the news came that these resources have started to deplete as of recently.

“The king and queen of the Kingdom of Glorious should be in good health. They even participate in public events.”

“They are of good health, yes. The Nanjou Family raised them after all. They are professionals at their work. It would be troublesome if a source of information were to pass away after all.” Kisa shrugged arrogantly.

To that, Mikado felt a shiver. He was reminded of all the incidents happening ever since the plane landed. The soldiers came to greet them in the multiple buses. The second he used the credit card, they were surrounded. He was confused as to how this was possible, but

assuming that the Nanjou Family stood at the top of it all, it was surprisingly easy.

“So the royal family are nothing more but puppets.”

Kisa smiled softly at Mikado’s disgusted question.

“Exactly, mere puppets. Because of the King’s bad gambling habit, they gathered a lot of debt, so we erased that. In return for that, they transferred the rights of the throne to the Nanjou Family. The king and his wife seemed happy with that, and now they’re living to their fullest. Basically, the Nanjou Family had become the Messiah of this country.”

“Let me guess, he gathered that debt in one of the Nanjou Family’s casinos.”

“My, how did you figure that out?”

“Because it makes perfect sense. It sounds like something the Nanjou Family would do.”

It said in the old chronicles of the Kitamikado Family that the one creating the tragedy of the Honnouji Temple, Akechi Mitsuhide, had gone into debt with the Nanjou Family in order to raise his military and public funds. The Nanjou Family hated Oda Nobunaga, who didn’t move according to their directions, and instead pushed Toyotomi Hideyoshi as the shogun, so they supported Mitsuhide that he would do the dirty work. Until the Kitamikado Family brought peace to the lands years later with the Tokugawa Family, the resulting wars of these resounded inside the country for a long time.

“And, I have been instructed to live here as the Queen of the Kingdom of Glorious! This is my own province! My rules count here! Nobody can go against my word, nor run away! This is a world entirely built for me!” Kisa raised both her hands into the air.

“How... could this happen...” Rinka’s shoulders shook, and Kokage muttered in fear.

“To think that Kisa-chan, who would normally trample on human rights already, neglecting place and location, had now ended up as an

actual queen...Human rights are in a deep pinch!”

“My, I fully understand just how you felt about me. How about I have you build a keyhole-shaped tumulus?”

“Eeeek?! At least make it a round one!”

“They are both too tough for one person...”

There was a girl who ordered her classmate to build a tomb dating back to the kofun period². Her name was Nanjou Kisa. At the same time, Mizuki was getting excited.

“I had no idea we had a country like this! Amazing!”

“Grandmother has explained it to you countless times, didn’t she! You just never listened! Rather, you’re never listening to anybody... You really should act more like a Nanjou and—” Kisa tried explaining, but Mizuki would not listen.

“Onee-chan is so cool! Praise the Queen!” she said, taking pictures even.

You might call it her instinct as a girl, but the second the camera was pointed at her, Kisa sat down on the throne, taking some cool, admirable, and arrogant poses.

“Indeed, I am cool! Praise me more!”

“How nice, being a queen! I also want to be one! Ah I know! If you die, can I become the queen then?!”

“Scary!” Even Kisa had to take a step back from the ambitious Mizuki.

“No no no, it’s not scary at all, is just hypothetical!”

“Even then it’s scary!”

“It’s fine, it’s fine~ Just tell me for reference.”

“What kind of reference?! You plan on assassinating me?! There’s no

way someone like you would be able to pull it off, but just come at me and try!” Kisa was at wariness max level.

“I’m joking~ I just like the face when you’re panicking, Onee-chan~”

“Could you not tease me like that...I feel like...my lifespan just got shortened...Ah, I mean, Mizuki’s.” She was trying her hardest to pressure Mizuki.

Kisa softly clapped her hands, as the door behind them opened, some soldiers entering. Automatic handguns, as well as military-type knives. Surrounded by these, Mikado glared up at Kisa.

“Kisa...I have my own ideas if you dared to make me your enemy.”

“No need to worry. I won’t do anything rough. Everyone but Mikado will enjoy a pleasurable vacation in my kingdom.”

“I-Is that so...thank god...” Kokage sighed in relief.

“However, you are to stay away from the palace at all times. If you can fulfill that condition, you can eat whatever you want, go wherever you want, and play around as much as you want.”

“What about...Mikado-sama?” Rinka’s expression didn’t shake as she asked.

“Isn’t that obvious. He will be living together with me in this palace!” Kisa raised her chin high up, as she declared.

Mikado was taken through the corridors, as he walked next to Kisa. Though he didn’t feel any ill-intent from the soldiers standing on the sides, they didn’t look like they would allow any attempt at escaping. In other words, they were all surveilling Mikado.

Rinka, Mizuki, and Kokage were all brought outside the palace again. Kisa had promised that they would not be in danger as long as they don’t come back, but even if they may be safe now, Mikado couldn’t help but worry about them. This being a country far away from Japan, unable to hold any proper conversations, they could only move as long as Kisa allowed.

“Kisa. I understand that you couldn’t just accept the pre-honeymoon. But, luring us into your own country, isn’t that a bit too much? At least have Rinka and the others live here as well...”

Kisa stopped her feet. She slowly turned around, and looked up at Mikado.

“Do you hate...being together with me...that much?” Her eyes were slightly dampened, her lips shaking.

Almost as if she was scared. Scared of Mikado’s answer. Just seeing this, Mikado was at a loss for words.

“I don’t...hate it...”

“Then...do you like it?”

“I don’t...like it either...but...”

Instantly, Mikado’s heartbeat accelerated. He wanted to be alone with Kisa, and these words were about to forcefully come out his throat. But, he could not hope to finish these words, because that would be a revelation of affection. Hence, he turned the question around.

“What about you, Kisa? Are you going this far because you want to be alone with me?”

Hiring hijackers, and forcing the plane to land in her own kingdom.

“U-Um, well, yes...but, just for the sake of the game! So that nobody could bother us during it!”

“I see, so no personal feelings involved?”

“N-No way...” Kisa blushed, as she cast her face downward.

Both her hands turned into fists in the process. Yet again, Mikado found himself unable to grasp the girl’s feelings. Was it really just for the sake of the game? Or was it...if only a little bit...because she was jealous about his pre-honeymoon with Rinka? If it was the latter, Mikado would feel happy, but if it was the former, he’d feel sad.

“A-Anyway, no complaints! Whether you want it or not, you’ll be living here with me!” Kisa grabbed hold of Mikado’s wrist, as she started walking again.

—I really want it, though.

These words he couldn’t say out loud, nor could he hold her hand. All he could was gaze at Kisa’s bashful appearance in silence.

“This is the bedroom of the queen.”

Eventually, the two of them appeared in front of a room similar to the audience room before. On the floor, Mikado spotted a carpet with exotic patterns on it. At the wall stood a luxurious bed, surrounded by velvet, thick curtains. Though there existed windows, they were closed off by curtains as well, only soft lights illuminating the room.

The second they entered, Mikado was met with a feeling of regret. He knew right away that this place would be dangerous...because it looked too comfortable. Probably because this room harbored vitality and the breath of Kisa herself.

The door closed behind him, and he even heard the sound of the door being unlocked from the outside. Most likely, the room was even guarded by soldiers, not giving Mikado any chance at escaping. Kisa truly wanted to make this place the location of their game.

—She has to have something set up, right...?

Mikado tried to figure out Kisa’s intentions, closely inspecting her. As always, her slender chin couldn’t be more beautiful. She seemed to be nervous with just Mikado here, because she started fidgeting in a cute manner. Then again, that already gave Mikado quite the amount of damage, before the game had even started.

Kisa cleared her throat, and looked up at Mikado.

“Lick my shoe.”

“...Why?”

“As proof of your submission. I am the Queen of this kingdom, the

unobtainable flower, whereas you are an intruder, so of course I would have to punish you some way.”

“What are you on about? I was forced here.”

“You are better off remembering that the queen’s words are absolute. If I said I wanted all the citizens to eat bread for breakfast, they will, and the same for rice. If someone ate noodles, they couldn’t complain even in the face of execution.”

“That’s ridiculous! Are you a dictator?!”

“I am!” Kisa announced without hesitation.

Apparently, she saw herself as a godsend of a ruler. Kisa took a step forward, softly slapping Mikado on the cheek.

“Now, hurry and lick my shoe. If not...”

“If not...?”

Mikado felt a sense of danger. Rinka, Mizuki, and Kokage were all still present in the country. The reason they were not sent out of the country was most likely to use them as hostages against Mikado. With his precious friends in constant danger, he could not go against the word of Kisa.

“If not, I will order every citizen to lick your shoes, Mikado!”

“That sounds disgusting! Also, why?!”

“For the health of the citizens! There are a handful of important minerals gathered on your shoes! It will also lessen the healthcare costs for the royal family!”

“How does that make any sense? What exactly am I?!”

“A treasure house of minerals!”

“My ass! I’m a human!”

Reading Kisa’s thoughts was an impossible task. Leave her alone, and

you had no idea what she would do. She might just have all the citizens lick Rinka and the others' shoes. Either choice was hell, but since Mikado had the choice, the answer was obvious.

“...Alright, I'll do it. Sit down over there.”

“O-Okay.” Acting nervous even though she ordered him to, Kisa sat down at the side of the bed, slightly stretching out her leg towards Mikado.

Apparently, this was a first experience for her as well, making Mikado wonder why she would even ask for something like this. Then again, an order was an order, and Kisa showed no signs of pulling it back. Hence, Mikado could only prepare himself, as he approached his face to Kisa's shoe. A radiating enamel high heel, overflowing with eroticism, fitting Kisa perfectly. Showing no dirt or flaw, it gave Mikado no reason to resist licking it.

Rather, because it belonged to Kisa's body this very moment, he would not have had any resistance in the first place. That was how much he accepted Kisa's everything. Her awkward personality, her evil personality, her weak personality, her pure personality, everything. Mikado grabbed her foot, and softly put his tongue on it.

“...There, I did it.”

“Yes, well done! Good boy, good boy!”

Kisa pulled Mikado's head closer, ruffling through his hair. By doing so, Mikado felt something warm inside of his chest, something like happiness. Like a desire was born for Kisa to continue doing this forever.

—W-What...is this sensation...?

Mikado was perplexed. He had never been patted on the head by his parents until now. There was his father, strictly training his son as the successor of the family, and his mother, who could not go against the word of the head of the family. Though they treated him with scoldings and lectures, but nothing like an embrace or kind sentiments. Hence, this foreign sensation. Wrapped between Kisa's

slender arms, they felt oddly dependable, making Mikado feel at ease.

“...Alright, that’s all for now.”

That’s why, as she let go of Mikado’s head, he felt oddly disappointed, and lonely. Kisa watched this expression of Mikado in a satisfied manner.

“Then, next you will lick me directly.”

“Directly?! D-Do you mean...in the sexual sense?” Mikado asked, which led Kisa to blush.

“O-Of course not! I-I didn’t mean it in a perverted sense, just me giving you an order, and you following that. It’s important for your submission! Come on, do it!”

Kisa stretched out her snow white, slender index finger towards Mikado. But, her knees on the bed were slightly shaking. As of right now, Mikado had no reason to disobey Kisa’s orders. Rather, his instincts were telling him to comply. Neither could he disobey because it was the order of the queen of this country.

—But, just complying is not enough.

Most likely, this was all part of a plot to bring shame to Mikado, turning him into her slave, to gain an advantageous position during the love game. Not to mention that, being in her own home, Kisa already had the psychological high ground. Hence, Mikado had to think of something to break down this advantage, destroying her plans. Even if that action were to be something outrageous.

“Hurry up and lick it.”

“...Yeah.”

Mikado brought his tongue closer to Kisa’s index finger. It was sweet. It made sense that the skin of a human was salty, but he couldn’t tell why it had such a distinct taste. Like her skin was the greatest type of fruit, growing sweeter the more one licked away. Mikado progressed further and further down the finger, until he arrived at the bridge between her other fingers, where Kisa let out a moan.

“Mm...Ahh...I-I-It’s okay now...that’s...enough...” Kisa’s body bent from the pleasure, but Mikado grabbed her hand, continuing.

Her other hand was already trying to push away Mikado on his shoulder, her slender legs flapping up and down. Wrinkles gathered on the sheets, and the squeaking sound of the bed rang out. Once Mikado separated from her finger, Kisa pulled back her damp finger, hiding it inside her chest, as if she didn’t want to get stolen again. From the looks of it, Mikado’s counterattack was fairly successful.

“J-Just a bit would have been fine...”

“It was so delicious, I kinda lost myself.”

“Delicious?! Did you awaken to cannibalism?! I made you awaken to that?!” Kisa escaped to the deeper parts of the bed.

However, she quickly cleared her throat, and came back towards Mikado.

“W-Well, it’s fine. You were just obeying my orders after all.”

“Kisa is being kind...? What are you plotting?” Mikado grew even more wary.

Normally she would praise herself as the Goddess of the Underworld, only allowing the extinction of all human life on earth, so this could only be the premonition of a catastrophe.

“I’m not plotting anything. Good job on properly listening to me, good boy.”

“.....?!?”

Kisa embraced Mikado’s head, gently patting him on the head again. Yet again, he felt this mysterious sense of happiness. Kisa’s slender fingers ran through his hair, just carefully caressing his head.

Indeed, this caressing felt too good for him. Maybe...Mikado felt his consciousness drift towards one possibility. Maybe Kisa wasn’t aiming to have Mikado taste humiliation. Maybe this was all just a dummy to have Mikado lower his guard. The real attack was the whole patting.

She might have found out that Mikado had never received this treatment, neither from parents or anybody else, and is using this against him now. A kind way of slaver, so to speak.

—No way, right.

Having observed Kisa all this time, Mikado denied that possibility.

“Haaa...so cute...Mikado, you’re like a small toddler...there, there... I’ll pat you even more...fufu...fufufufu...” Kisa buried Mikado’s head in her own chest, her soft palm moving over his head.

Surrounded by Kisa’s soft two bulges, his nostrils were assaulted by her sweet fragrance.



—No, if it's Kisa, it definitely is possible.

Kisa is a genius at plotting, and with her influence, it would have been no difficult feat to find out his family circumstances either. After all, she immediately found out the location of their pre-honeymoon, even inviting them into her own world. The game master of this day was Kisa. Everything was under her control, be it rules or field. Not to mention that she could use this all to attack at

her own desire.

If Mikado didn't fire back, he would be done in. Even as he was buried inside Kisa's chest, he tried his hardest to think of a means to escape this. Inside this sweet hell, he finally found a saving grace. Back when he was younger, he had taken Kisa as a comrade of sorts. Even if they were separated by light and dark, they had an odd sympathy for the other.

—Maybe I can use this.

Mikado steeled his resolve, and tried to escape from inside Kisa's chest. His instincts told him to stay in there for a bit longer, until the world would come to an end to be precise, and yet, he tried his everything to escape from this black hole pulling him in.

“What happened, Mikado? Do you want me to pat you some more? Come here...?” Kisa just flashed a kind smile, opening her arms towards Mikado.

That sight alone was awfully charming, full of seductive force. However, Mikado killed off his emotions, and instead reached out for Kisa's head.

“Eh...”

Taken by surprise, Kisa was unable to escape. Aiming for this opening, Mikado started patting Kisa on the head instead.

“Fuwah...H-Hey, Mikado...what are you...fuwaaah...” Kisa's expression just melted away.

Her cheeks turned red from the pleasure, raising sweet moans in the face of this sudden turn of events. No strength she could put into her body.

—I thought so, Kisa also...!

They both had no experience of being patted on the head! By not having received a treatment like this before, Kisa arrived at Mikado's weakness. Because it was untested ground even for her. But at the same time, it also revealed her own weakness, and how sarcastic it

was. With this, they were equal again—No, Mikado had the upper hand. In terms of arm length, Mikado was winning over Kisa, so she wouldn't be able reach his own head, and their arm strength was different as well. He had a definite hold on her head, continuing his brain crusher patting move.

“How is it...Kisa...? Does it feel good? It does, right? You're about to go crazy, right?”

“T-That's not...this isn't the cashe...!”

Or so she said, but everytime he ran his fingers through her hair, her shoulders jolted up ever so slightly. Coming this far, she had no strength to resist anymore.

—With this, I can bring her down.

Mikado was sure of this win, Kisa managed to escape from his hold, as she escaped over the bed like a cat hating to be carried.

“So you can still move!”

“Haa...Huff...D-Did you really think you had me defeated with something like that?!”

Mikado grit his teeth in defeat, whereas Kisa embraced her own body, blushing furiously. It was an absolute turn-around from the previous situation. That being said, the field was evened, and all rules were reset besides a single one. That was [The one who pats first, controls the heart of the one being pat]. If their weaknesses overlined, then so did their methods. In other words, the winner will be decided by endurance, guts, and sheer force of will.

“Kisa, just give up and come over here. I'll spoil you so much you'll forget about everything.”

“Same to you, Mikado, just give in to my body. I'll give you pure bliss.”

Sparks flew between the two, as they glared at each other. A bedroom should be filled with a blissful, sweet atmosphere, but that was nowhere to be found right now.

Kisa jumped onto the bed, crawling towards Mikado, as her arms closed in on him. Mikado dodged that, as he jumped into the air. With that, a heavy metallic sound rang out, as Mikado felt a shock at this right leg. Looking down, a barb bit into his right leg.

“Got you now!”

“A trap?!”

A bear trap. Normally they were used to catch bears or wolves, but because of the brutality, it was banned from Japan. That being said, the Nanjou Family never gave much mind to the laws of Japan, and this wasn't Japan to begin with either. It was Kisa's kingdom. Mikado hurried in escaping from this trap, but Kisa waited for that exact moment, as she brought down her left hand onto Mikado.

“As if I'd let you!”

Mikado twisted his body to escape, as Kisa's hand slapped down onto the carpet, creating a rather impactful sound, clearly not the strength you'd use to pat someone on the head. If his reaction had been delayed for a fragment of a second, his head might have been split like an egg.

That being said, he didn't have the time to dwell on that. Because Kisa's other hand cut through the air as it approached Mikado. It looked like a bird of prey, diving deeper with aim for a poor animal. Because of the bear trap, Mikado wasn't given much time to escape, leaving him no other choice but to intercept Kisa's right hand with his own. The same he did with Kisa's free hand, which came attacking again. Because of that, they ended up in a dead-lock, glaring at each other.

“Fu...fufufu...prepare yourself, you won't be able to escape from me anymore...”

“Until I make you mine, I can't give in yet...”

Having fallen to the ground, Mikado tried his hardest to push away Kisa on top of him. Her waist was glued to his, as he directly felt her thighs on his body. There was the possibility of just throwing her

away without restraint, but that could end up in an injury for Kisa. He could not allow Kisa's beautiful body to be hurt in any way. Mikado himself more than anybody else.

—So she calculated things this much.

If so, then Kisa really was a dangerous opponent. Because of the biological difference in man and woman, she had to come up with another way to make the chances 50/50. No, this wasn't even 50/50. Mikado was pressed against the ground, leaving him no chances to escape, whereas Kisa could always jump off of him. In the long term, Mikado was at a huge disadvantage.

—Then, all I can do is win as quickly as possible!

Kisa tightly held onto Mikado's hands, pushing him down. Using the energy she had left, as well as the vector she was pushing down, she was trying to finish Mikado off. However, although humans might be able to intercept attacks from the outside, they could not work against the laws of nature. Hence, Mikado quickly let go of Kisa's hands, throwing away defence and attack.

“Kya?!”

As a result, Kisa came flying down. Because she had used Mikado's hands as a pillar, now that they were gone, she could not stop herself in time. Their chests bumped together, as their cheeks barely passed each other. With her face, able to categorize as a work of art, approaching him at close distance like that, Mikado felt his heartbeat accelerate rapidly. Her eyes were like gemstones, her eyelashes like pitch-black wings.

Even though he knew he should be on a counterattack after creating an opening for himself, with the girl's head right in an arm's reach, he couldn't move. She had fully charmed Mikado, to the brim of him staring at her in a daze. But then, her cherry-red lips started shaking, and she opened her mouth.

“”W-What...”

“What.....?”

“What do you think you’re doing?! What if we accidentally kissed each other—?!” Kisa screamed as her shoulders shook.

“.....Huh?” Mikado gazed at her with opened eyes and mouth.

He didn’t expect such a complaint in this battle between life and death. Kisa almost jumped up from Mikado, sitting in between his legs.

“That just now was awfully close! Because you suddenly put away your hand, our lips almost touched! What are you thinking?! Were you even thinking anything?! You can’t kiss someone if it’s just an accident! You have to do this when both parties consent, and are mentally prepared, as we spend a romantic evening at the beach, the sound of the waves hitting the shore! It has to be the first and best kiss ever! Not something that should be wasted with an accident!”

“Sorry...”

The successor of the Empress of Darkness was awfully maiden-like, and romantic.

—What kind of lecture is this supposed to be...?

Mikado was at a loss. That being said.

“Well...I get where you’re coming from. Your first kiss has to be something important.”

“Right?! You also feel that way, don’t you?!”

As Mikado showed consent, Kisa pulled her body forward. In reality, their lips were still close enough that they could touch with any hasty movement, but she was probably too occupied with other things to realize that.

“Talking about my ideal first kiss...let’s see. Together in outer space, as Gustav Holst’s suite [Planets] plays, we gaze at earth, and share our kiss.”

“Your first kiss is in outer space?!”

“Dramatic, right?”

“Way too dramatic! What are you?! The type to daydream during class?! What would you do about the air supply?! Can we keep it a bit more realistic?!”

Mikado just returned a kind smile.

“Even in outer space, humans can survive for about ten seconds. Or so Kawaraya told me.”

“Don’t bet your life on the line for a kiss! Also, don’t bring up another girl right now! Do you want to kiss Kawaraya-san or something?! Is this a setting for that?!”

“Of course not!”

“Then, who is it?” Kisa glared at Mikado.

Her fists were shaking on top of Mikado, ready to rain down depending on the answer. To that, Mikado felt a shiver run down his spine. But not because of Kisa’s fists. Rather, because of the question itself. The answer to her question was as obvious as day. But, revealing that right in front of her was not possible for him.

“How could I tell you? ...What about you, Kisa?”

“I-I can’t tell you either!” Kisa went beet red, as she pouted.

She got up from the ground, and sat on the bed to cool down her burning hot cheeks.

“That sure spoiled the atmosphere. Let’s leave it at that today. But, as long as you stay inside my country, you will not be able to run away from me, Mikado. I will definitely win you over.”

Rather than that, she looked like she was heating up even further, almost frantically trying to cool down her head.

Meanwhile, Mizuki, who was thrown out of the palace. She stood on stage in the middle of a wide, open place, with a microphone in hand. Naturally, being chased out of the palace by her older sister...

Didn't make her sad in the slightest! She was not plagued with loneliness after being separated from her loved one. Rather, she was brimming with energy. She did feel a bit lonely without her older sister, and bored without Mikado around, but that was that. She would not be depressed about anything for too long anyway.

Getting Mikado all on her own with her older sister around would prove difficult either way. On top of that, she was a good-for-nothing, and the weakest contender out of all the girls participating in the love game. Assuming that there was some sort of development happening between Kisa and Mikado, she could still try to steal him in the end, and that sounded much more interesting to Mizuki anyway.

"Everyone, thanks for gathering here just for me!" Mizuki's voice filled the big space.

She wasn't an idol or anything. The people gathered in front of her weren't her fans either, but rather just normal citizens. Using the special right as the little sister of the current Queen—without revealing any shady details to the public of course—she gathered people from various parties in this kingdom, to bring them here.

"Since I can't play with Onee-chan, you all will have to play with me then! Today, we'll play hide-and-seek! The seeker will be the 7th special platoon, and the others all have to hide! The ones who manage to hide until the sun sets will be free from taxes for the rest of the year, or receive special prizes, so try your best!" Mizuki shot the pistol (loaded with an actual bullet), as the people gathered in the open space desperately scattered, all as if they were running for their lives.

"One, two three..." Mizuki turned around and started counting.

Around her were the soldiers from the special platoon, wearing battle uniforms, as they stood stand-by with submachine guns in hand. Though they were just filled with paint balls, the citizens didn't know about that. Mizuki decided on this to give the game more thrill.

"...97, 98, 99, 100!"

Once Mizuki counted to the end, the man with the guns jumped down from the stage. Running around the streets of the capital, they were hunting a participant wearing a red shirt.

“Found one!”

Together with Mizuki’s announcement, the men shot the paintball gun without mercy. Next victims were some punks as they hid next to the trash bags. Jumping over the fences, the men shot housewives wearing aprons, as they hid inside the houses. Having been shot with the paintball gun, which they assumed to be actual bullets, they let out screams of agony, fell unconscious, or begged to god.

“So much fun!”

Mizuki could do whatever she wanted. She would do that on a daily basis already, but with the special rights she earned, nobody could go against her word.

“Now, where’s the next one?”

Mizuki walked down a backstreet, looking for her prey. Finally, she found something suspicious in her field of view. From the exit of a large pipe going inside a wall, a human butt stuck out. Because it wore a skirt, it most likely belonged to a girl. Possessing quite the volume, the thighs following it were not missing any meat.

“...A butt?” Mikado tilted his head, poking at the living being.

“Mugh! Mgggh!”

Some sort of voice came from the butt, as it shook left and right.

“Mugh? Some sort of monster? Or is that your name?” Mizuki poked at the butt even further.

“P-Please, help me out of here!”

She heard a voice coming from inside the pipe.

“Okay!” Mizuki granted the voice’s wish, flipping up the skirt.

“Kyaa?! It suddenly got really chilly?!”

“Oh? Didn’t you want your butt to get out from the skirt?”

“Not my butt! I want to get out of here as a person! At this rate, I’ll die! Are you really fine with that?!”

Mizuki crossed her arms as she started thinking.

“Hmm...it’d be a shame if Mguh-chan just died like that. If you did, everybody would forget your glorious name after all!”

“How does that make any sense! Could you just save me now?! This is your last chance, you know, otherwise I’ll seriously suffocate in here!”

She was asking for help, but it sounded awfully arrogant. But, the words ‘Last chance’ always had a deep impact on girls especially. The fear of not being able to buy clothes anymore, the sense of waste not being able to walk around with the cute clothes one bought, they were truly stimulative for their instincts. Especially for someone like Mizuki, living a stylish life.

“Don’t die yet, Mguh-chan! I’ll try my best to save you!” Mizuki said so, pulling off the shoes and socks of the poor girl.

Her bare legs looked as smooth as a toddler’s.

“Why are you taking off that?!”

“Eh...I was wrong again? I thought you’d survive with this...cutaneous respiration...thing?”

“I can’t do that! Well, I can do a little bit, but my main source is my mouth!”

“I see...Sorry about that, but it seems as if I can’t be of any help here.” Mizuki shrugged her shoulders, about to walk away.

“You totally can! Don’t give up on me! Just pull on my legs like a normal person would!”

“...Are you a genius?!”

“There is only one possible method here in the first place!”

“Alrighty then, heave-ho!”

Putting the bare legs under her arms, Mizuki put one leg on the wall, pulling as strong as she could. Inside the pipe were sounds of something squeaking, something pulling, together with a shriek, when the girl was finally saved.

“Haa...Huff...I thought I was going to die...”

Though the head of the girl was a sweaty mess, with dirt here and there, the facial features looked familiar to Mizuki.

“Wait, you aren’t Mguh-chan! It’s Kokage-chan! You liar!”

“I wasn’t lying about anything! I never said my name was Mguh-chan!”

“You betrayed me! I can’t bear to see you anymore!”

“I didn’t betray you, and stop making everything sound more dramatic than it is!”

“Okay~!” Mizuki put both her hands behind her head, smiling.

Unlike her older sister, Mizuki was mentally fairly strong. Even if the world were to end, she would just shrug her shoulders with a ‘Can’t help it’, moving on to the next world. Said Mizuki took out a handkerchief from her pocket, wiping away the dirt on Kokage’s face.

“And, what were you doing inside that pipe, Kokage-chan? You stopped being a human to become a plug?”

“I have no plans to stop being a human! I was trying to sneak inside the government office, but since the upfront didn’t work out, I wanted to try the duct.”

“You want to get inside the government office? So you wanna be a public servant! Good girl!”

“Not in that sense! Sneaking inside the government office doesn’t make you a public servant either!”

“They might employ you for the enthusiasm you have”

“The enthusiasm of a burglar is nothing but a bother for the institution!”

Apparently, she had a certain sense of what she did was not exactly legal. For Mizuki, who had assumed she only had aliens in her head, that was a pleasant surprise. Brushing off the dirt on her clothes and skin, Kokage stood up.

“I wanted information on this mysterious small country here. Even though the country is being reigned by the Nanjou Family, there are absolutely no sources of information inside the international society, which could mean that the control of information is very strict. Hence, I will use my time to unravel their secrets! There even is a high chance that there is a UMA hidden somewhere here...!” With her eyes sparkling, Kokage put one hand into the air.

“I see~ Then, I’ll help you! Looking around in this country!”

“Really?!”

“Yup! It sounds like it’ll be fun!”

“Having the support of someone from the Nanjou Family would be a huge help! It would allow me to enter many more places!” Kokage pushed her body forward to Mizuki, her camera in hand.

“And also...it would help a lot to know more about this country... once I take it from Onee-chan, right?”

“That sounded awfully scary, but please do!”

“Alright, then let’s go! Hearing out the people in the town is a basic RPG event!” Mizuki took Kokage’s hand, as she walked.

Though she felt like she was forgetting something, she hadn’t the foggiest as to what that could be, so Mizuki didn’t pay it much mind.

「Mizuki-sama, Kwaraya, nor the young Shizukawa lady show no suspicious movement. Since they have no chances of contacting the outside, the risk should currently be around 0%」Sigma's voice arrived from the phone.

“...Is that so. Good work. But, knowing how they might try something stupid, always keep them under supervision.” Sitting on the bed inside the queen's bedroom, Kisa had her phone in hand.

The time Mikado went to take a bath, she gave the commander of her private unit a call to see how things were outside the palace.

「Understood. Still, all of this sure reeks of you, Kisa-sama. Pushing out all the other players out of the stage so that only you say behind」

“What do you mean by that? It's true that I was a bit pushy with my plan this time around, but it's their fault for being deceived like that. Not to mention that they all gladly left.”

Mizuki was given an entire country as a playground, Kokage was looking into the mysteries of this country, and Rinka was given another luxurious palace. All of the girls were given appropriate compensation so that they wouldn't try to rebel.

“In other words, my feelings are much stronger than theirs.”

「Well said. I guess you really were the one to love that shitty Kitamikado brat the most」Sigma said with a teasing voice, to which Kisa started blushing furiously.

“Y-You're wrong. It's just, I would not give up on Mikado at any means, and if need be, I'd burn down the royal palace!”

「My, love sure is a wonderful thing. Even I feel all warm and fuzzy inside」

“Again, you're wrong—!!!” Completely forgetting that this was supposed to be a talk in secret, she screamed at her smartphone.

The embarrassment got too much to her head. And because of this, she didn't even pick up on footsteps approaching her.

“Wrong about what?”

“Hyaaa?!”

Being called out from the entrance of the bedroom, Kisa’s heart almost leaped out of her chest. Having just finished his bath, Mikado stood in the door frame, clad in a bathrobe. He always had a clean and proper look to him, but now he looked even more refreshed, making Kisa’s heart skip a beat. Said Kisa also reflexively cut the phone call.

“Eh? N-Not wrong about anything! Nothing is wrong!”

“Again, what are you on about...?”

“How could I tell you?! Respect my privacy! Why do I have to tell you every little thing?! I’d rather have all the cells inside my body explode!”

“It’s that big of a deal?!” Mizuki grew pale.

“Yes, yes it is! If you get it, then stop with this awful prying! ...I don’t mind telling you all about it after the game is over, though.” Kisa averted her gaze, crossing her arms.

Indeed, as of right now, she couldn’t tell him. About her passionate feelings, burning deep inside her chest. First, she had to finish this game, and come out on top. Both against Mikado, and her own family. If Kisa were to give up in the game, converting to the Kitamikado Family just like that, Mikado would undoubtedly be killed by the Nanjou Family. Even if the family head were to allow it, the retainers certainly would not.

“It sounded like you were talking with Mizuki, so I was wondering. You said you were letting them roam free, but inside a foreign country, you know...” Mikado had a worrisome gaze as he looked towards the window.

“...Are you that worried about them? You like them or something?”

“Yeah, of course I do.”

“Eh...”

Towards Mikado's loose response, Kisa felt like a sharp nail was driven right inside her chest. That apparently showed on her face, as Mikado panicked.

“N-No, not in a weird way or anything!? Just, as normal friends! Rinka, Kawaraya, and Mizuki all are good girls, right.”

“Y-Yeah! You're fighting against me right now, so you wouldn't go cheat on me!”

“I won't cheat. No matter what.”

“...Okay.”

Receiving a straightforward gaze from Mikado, Kisa softly nodded. Naturally, out of happiness. Just knowing that he wasn't going off flirting with another girl whilst they fought their love game made her chest feel ticklish. Although the reason might be different from what she is hoping for, he was only looking at her. And unlike the Nanjou Family, Mikado was not the type to lie. The words he spoke he would protect at any costs.

“Um...if you're that worried, do you want to check on them with the surveillance cameras?”

“Can we do that?”

“Yes. Sigma is always tailing their movement to make sure they don't do anything stupid, or get hurt in any way.”

In other words, so that they don't bother Kisa during the love game, but she kept these words to herself.

“I see. You really are a good person, Kisa.” Mikado flashed a relieved smile.

“Y-Yeah.” Kisa nodded along awkwardly.

In reality, she wasn't acting kind in any way, and being referred to as a 'good person' was the exact opposite of a normal Nanjou Family

member, but for some reason, she didn't hate it when Mikado called her like that. Instead of dwelling on it, Kisa just used her smartphone to call Sigma.

"Show the security camera footage on my smartphone, I want to show Mikado."

「My, are you two going to peek? Isn't that a bit horrible for a date plan?」

"We're not peeking at all, it's just that Mikado is worried about them."

「I see. Kisa-sama really is too kind to that shitty Kitamikado brat」

"Zip it up already and show me."

Before Sigma could say anything unnecessary, Kisa cut the call. It'd be bad if Mikado could hear some of Sigma's words through the phone. Though Sigma was proficient at her job, her attitude towards her employee of all people was awfully annoying at times.

Not even a few minutes passed, when the security cameras were projecting their view on Kisa's smartphone. First, they spotted Rinka, drinking some tea on a luxurious terrace, with a maid next to her.

Following that was Kokage, who was climbing up the wall of a building, dressed like a ninja.

"...What is she doing...?"

"Seems like she's trying to sneak inside the archives of the government."

"Is it fine not stopping her?! What are you even watching then?!"

"No problem. Since she's not bothering us here, it's fine to give her a bit of information."

"Well, she's bothering you in a different way..." Mikado watched the Kokage on the screen.

Arriving at the roof of the building she just climbed up, she ran into a guard, escaping with a scream. It seemed as if Kisa was fine with letting Kokage roam free as long as she wasn't bothered in the love game.

Finally, Mizuki was shown on the screen. Rolling around on what looked to be the carpet of her private room, she crunched on some cookies, as she played her usual mobile game. It was the usual daily life she spent back in Japan. But suddenly, she rolled upwards, lifting up her body ever so slightly, as her innocent Nanjou eyes looked over directly at the camera.

“Did she...catch on to it?”

“This time, we tried really hard to hide the surveillance cameras, but...”

As the two of them were slightly confused, Mizuki just stuck out her tongue. Flashing a teasing grin after, she slowly took off the camisole strings from her shoulders, revealing her bra beneath. With her white skin becoming apparent to the camera, so did her cleavage.

“She’s clearly caught on to it?!”

“You can’t look!!!” Kisa threw away her smartphone.

Colliding with the window, it created a pattern of cracks, but it was a hundred times better than having Mikado see Mizuki in her underwear, and she had already created a back-up drive for all the pictures of the boy, so she wasn't losing any with this. That being said, her little sister was as reckless as ever. Not only knowing about Kisa's surveillance, but even catching on to Mikado's presence. Even as she was kicked out of the palace, she was causing headache after headache for Kisa.

“S-See, everyone is doing just fine.”

“Y-Yeah. Just like you said.”

As expected, Mikado's ears turned faintly red. Who could blame him, Mizuki was cute after all. So were Rinka and Kokage. Around Mikado were too many dangerously charming girls. That's why Kisa had to go

this far as to monopolize him in her own country.

“The preparations for the dinner are done. As the kind-hearted queen, I will feed the miserable Mikado.”

“I’m not miserable, and I can eat by myself.”

“Not happening. After all, both your hands will suffer from a complicated bone fracture with mysterious reason.”

“For some reason I can tell who the perpetrator of that will be though?!”

“No need to worry...fufufu...”

“That ominous laughter isn’t exactly reassuring, you know?!”

Pulling on the wary Mikado’s arm, Kisa took him to the table in the room next to them. The palace had a wide open dining room of sorts, but she preferred an atmosphere with just the two of them, rather than having the maids around.

—The one to strike first wins.

Slightly in a rush, Kisa clung to Mikado’s arm.

Inside a forest, quite a bit of distance away from the center of the capital. At a dead angle from surveillance cameras and soldiers, Rinka had called Kokage there. She had realized that someone had been watching her for a long time now. To Kisa, a fiancée like Rinka was the biggest enemy, so she was obviously trying to tear them apart.

That is why Rinka acted calm and played the part of the obedient citizen. Using the openings the soldiers and Kisa showed, she arranged a meeting like this. The reason she chose Kokage was because she had previously been a helpful force. Additionally, Mizuki was too much of an unstable force, too random to truly trust, because she could always join Kisa’s side.

“I don’t think...we can keep going like this.” Rinka said with a hanging head.

“Right! At this rate, global warming will kill us all!”

Correction. Not only Mizuki, but Kokage both were an unstable force. How did she even come up with global warming of all the things right now? However, having no other person to rely on, Rinka had to take what she could get.

“Um, I wasn’t going to talk about that today...” Rinka tried to change the topic back to what she wanted, but Kokage was already unstoppable.

“That makes sense. Rather than talking about global warming, we have to participate in the summit concerning environmental destruction! From my speculations, the reason for it is not because of us, but rather the people living underground! The wales and eels going down in number is because the underground dwellers like food with them the most! But what do you think?!”

“I don’t know what to think about that!”

“Just give me your honest impression! If you think the underground dwellers are at fault, press button A, and if you think the underwater dwellers did it, press button B!”

“What buttons are you even talking about?!”

Even though she was the one who brought up the options, Kokage looked around the surroundings, slightly flustered.

“So you can’t see them, Rinka-chan...the buttons floating in the air here...”

“.....?!”

For the first time, Rinka felt terrified of Kokage. She started wondering what she was even seeing, and if she should be taken to a hospital right now, or if Rinka herself was the weird one.

Clearing her throat, Rinka brought a cut to the current conversation.

“What I want to talk about on this day is Mikado-sama...Are you fine with Mikado-sama being alone with Kisa-san the entire time?”

“I mean...I feel a bit lonely, but...”

“Lonely...?”

For some reason, Kokage didn’t express an objective reason, but rather brought in her personal feelings, which led Rinka to feel a bit uncomfortable.

Kokage started blushing, as she waved her hands.

“Ah, no, it’s nothing! It’s true that having Mikado-kun locked away is bad, but I’m scared of talking back to the Nanjou Family, in case they get angry at me, and I’m sure the two of them will eventually get bored just being in that palace the entire time!”

“Bored...I wonder about that. I feel like they could keep living there for the rest of their lives. At the very least, I wouldn’t mind spending the rest of my days in the same room, as long as I have Mikado-sama with me! No matter what kind of method I would have to use.”

“Eek?! You’re just as scary, Rinka-chan!”

—said the person who could see imaginary buttons floating in the air.

“Also, even if Kisa-san were to release Mikado-sama after a while, it might be too late already.”

“Too late...?” Kokage tilted her head in confusion.

“Mikado-sama’s children might be growing inside of Kisa-san.”

“B-Baby?! No...No way that would happen! The two of them are still in high school, and they aren’t married either, so how could they!”

“Age and situation don’t matter at all! If I was Kisa-san, I would do it. Have Mikado-sama end up in a coma, and forcefully sleep with him to give him a reason to not leave me again!”

“Rinka-chan is getting even scarier than Kisa-chan?!” Kokage shuddered in fear at Rinka’s declaration.

In Rinka’s head, the rule of who carried his child would be the

winner accounted for everything.

“That is why I want to save Mikado-sama at all costs. That being said, with my own strength, I will not be able to get closer to the palace... that is why I wanted to ask for your assistance.”

“Fueh?! You’re going to rebel against Kisa-chan?!”

“She has started this all with her awful plotting. And I thought that you might be skilled at sneaking around, and getting inside certain institutions. And I have heard that your skill is on top-notch level, even in your family.”

“W-Well, thank you for that, but that’s not really that case~ I always fail after all, I’m such a good for nothing, ehehe~” Kokage grew flustered after being praised like that.

Rinka saw her chance, grabbing Kokage’s hand as she attacked further.

“Please, help me! I can only ask you!”

“O-Only me?! If you say that...Uuu...”

“Kawaraya-san...!”

“...I-I understand. I will try my best, so leave it to me!”

Having been defeated, Kokage tapped on her chest, as she proudly declared.

The queen’s bedroom was filled with a light scent of smoke. With no clock anywhere, and the curtains blocking off the windows, after staying in here through noon and night, Mikado didn’t even know how much time, how many days had passed since he started staying in the palace.

“Mikado...let us play a game today again.”

Sitting on the bed, Kisa reached out for her hand towards Mikado, gently inviting him. The only things happening in this room were games. Games over and over. If one loses, you will lose your heart

and soul. Each and every game could decide on the future of these two, using every ounce of their brain capacity.

“What kind of game?”

“Today, I was thinking of playing the question game.”

Kisa pointed at a container standing on the satin sheets, decorated with glittering old. On top of it was something that looked like a silver grape, giving off a suspicious radiance.

“It’s not a normal fruit, right...?”

“Of course not. This is the specifically cultivated Nectar Fruit, only found in the Kingdom of Glorious. Put together with various ingredients during the cultivation, it has an intoxicating effect.”

“We are minors though...”

“Don’t worry, it’s different from normal alcohol. Well, in the Kingdom of Glorious, drinking alcohol is allowed even for minors, and the same rules as Japan’s persecution don’t count here.” Kisa delivered a short explanation.

She must have prepared an explanation like this because she knew how diligent and serious Mikado could be.

“The rules of the game are simple. The two of us will ask the other questions. The container here has a vocal analyzing system built into it, so it will be able to see through lies immediately, and turn on the buzzer. Mikado, can you try lying?”

“Lie? Hmm...”

Being a member of the Kitamikado Family, he had been raised to never lie. Though it was allowed in a political warfare or for one’s safety, but not to gain benefit in any way as a normal person.

“Anything is fine.”

“Then...I’m good at lying.”

Immediately, a buzzing sound came from the fruit-shaped container.

“Like this.”

“That sure worked well. I’d love to widen its use in Japanese society.”

Mikado showed admiration, but Kisa just faintly shivered.

“Do you want to build up a dystopia? In a world where no lies are allowed, everybody would just be fighting against the other. It’d be hell to live in, or so I think at least.”

“Really? Wouldn’t it be more of an utopia where everyone can live proudly and honestly?”

“Well, in this one case, I doubt that our opinions will ever reach consent. And that’s fine. The winner can use the loser to shape Japan after their own desires.”

“Exactly. So, teach me the rest of the rules.”

Mikado knew that their opinions would differ from the very beginning. Before the Kitamikado Family and the Nanjou Family would agree on something, hell would freeze over. And yet, Mikado couldn’t help but feel a bit lonely at that fact.

“We can both decide if we want to answer the questions of the other person. However, in the event that either of us pass, we have to eat a piece of the Nectar as a penalty. Repeating that, the one who goes down first is the loser. Simple, right?”

“It is simple, but...”

Since this was Kisa he had to deal with, there had to be a trap set up somewhere.

“There is one thing I would like to check. Is the effect of the fruit always the same no matter which part you eat, and do you have any antidote with you that could dispel the effects?”

“None of that. Our chances are mostly even, so it’s fair-play. I’ve played this game with Mizuki before, so I might have the advantage

in that, but your body is built so that it can take more of the fruit itself, which should balance things out.”

The buzzer didn’t make a sound, meaning that Kisa was speaking the truth. In this game, you could win with pure strategy, so Kisa probably didn’t see any need to put in unnecessary traps that could backfire. Truly enough, he didn’t spot anything that could act as such, unlike back with the aphrodisiac, or the entire cruiser that one time. In other words, Kisa had confidence in winning here. The risks might be high, but so are the possible returns. If he used his questions correctly, he might be able to pull out any hints of affection towards him.

“...Alright, I’ll accept the battle.”

“That’s what I wanted to hear. Let’s decide on the order with a coin toss.” Kisa put her fingers into the cleavage of her babydoll.

Her body was slender, but her cleavage was not something to be joking around, as she took out a sparkling gold coin. That gesture alone gave Mikado an insane amount of damage before the game even started. Either way, Kisa threw the coin into the air, slapping it on the palm of her hand.

“I’ll be tails.”

“Then I’ll be heads.”

Taking away her hand, Kisa revealed the coin to show tails.

“That means I’ll go first.”

“Yeah.”

Or so he said, but he cursed himself for not thinking this through. Kisa had decided on her side of the coin after it was basically already decided. Not to mention that she just decided she would be going first without having established anything. That being said, trying to redo it was too late, because Kisa already fired the first question at Mikado.

“Mikado...do you have any pictures of me on your phone?”

“Wha...?!”

Right off the bat, Mikado suffered from a critical question. Needless to say, he had them. Though he did receive some as ‘service’ from Mizuki, he had snuck in some of his own. Though the phone was locked, he would sometimes gaze at them in his private room. When he didn’t feel any motivation to study, this would give him a great boost of motivation. The Kitamikado Family was always preaching the distracting feature of love, but for Mikado, it had the opposite effect.

“Not pictures during a gathering or trip, just pictures of me alone. Do you have some?”

“.....”

Mikado worked his brain at maximum capacity. If he answered that they existed, it would count as an obvious show of affection towards Kisa. You wouldn’t have any pictures of someone you don’t even like on your phone. However, if he said no, the vocal analyzer would immediately buzz to announce his lie. Wanting to hide it would show his affection even more blatantly. If he decided to pass, it would be about the same as saying he had some, but not an obvious statement of affection, meaning that he could avoid meeting defeat.

Being cornered like this in just one question, that was the successor of the Nanjou Family for you. This girl really was a monster.

“.....Pass.” Mikado announced, albeit unwillingly.

“O-Ohhh~ I see...” Kisa’s cheeks started to blush ever so slightly, her body fidgeting awkwardly.

She was trying to hide her face with her smartphone, as she looked up at Mikado, yet another cute gesture of hers. Like she felt embarrassed about knowing Mikado probably had pictures of her.

“U-Um...you know? I’d hate it if you took any bad pictures of me, so I don’t mind giving you some that I personally approve of...feel free if you want to take any here...”

“Well...” It took everything of Mikado to hold himself back from

saying yes.

“Then...it’s time for the penalty. Come here.”

Mikado moved to the middle of the bed as Kisa instructed, and was given a piece of the fruit from her. With her beautiful fingers, looking right after a manicure, she pushed the piece into his mouth. The second he bit on it, the juice of the fruit filled his mouth, directly reaching his brain. His world shook, as sweat broke out from his entire body.

Back when he was young, he had taken a sip from Japanese sake by accident, and the impact right now felt even stronger. He felt his ability to think suffered for at least half the value by just that. With that, Mikado understood the true reason for this game. It wasn’t to have the other person answer, but rather to have them pass, so that they would be unable to eventually escape the questions in the first place. In other words, Mikado had to think of questions Kisa would want to pass on no matter what. That being said, Kisa probably would expect certain questions, already having prepared countermeasures.

“Next it’s my turn. With what kind of goal in mind is the Nanjou Family governing the Kingdom of Glorious?”

Since this was strategic information, she should not be fine to blatantly answer it. With this, he was sure about a penalty for Kisa, but—

“With the goal to eventually control all of Japan, we’re doing this as an experiment of sorts.” Kisa just grinned at Mikado in confidence.

“Was that really fine to tell me?!”

“It doesn’t matter. You’ll give out information about this country to your family anyway, so they’ll be able to figure out our goal.”

“You’re not worried about us bothering you here?”

“Even if you tried, we’re having a proper grasp on this country, so go ahead and try.”

“Ugh...”

Mikado wasted a question. Gritting his teeth, he looked over at the container with the nectar. And then, it was Kisa's turn.

“Mikado, do you have a girl you like right now?”

“You're asking that straight again?!”

From the looks of it, Kisa was not holding back on any banger questions. She wanted to make this a short battle, giving Mikado as much nectar as possible. Then again, it was a fitting pattern for Kisa.

“Not in the sense of liking them as friends or family, okay. In the romantic sense.” A faint glimmer of tension could be heard in Kisa's words.

She gazed at him, almost as if she was worried about his answer. It was a bold question, but he couldn't have her take the lead more than this.

“.....I do.” He gave an honest response.

“S-So you do...” Kisa showed a rare expression, as she cast her face downward.

Is he talking about Kisa herself? Or was it about Rinka, Mizuki, or even Kokage? He didn't specify, which left Kisa with more damage. At the same time, Mikado felt his eyes spinning, as the nectar started taking effect. Before he collapsed, Mikado had to fight back. Hence, he decided to bring out a highly critical question.

“Why did you even set up this love game with me?”

“E-Eh...why...?” Kisa looked bewildered.

“I mean, is it all just to reign over the Kitamikado Family? All just with the political aspect in mind...or was there another reason?”

Mikado wanted her to have another reason. This was something he had wished to ask before, without this whole question game. Kisa on her part just formed fists on top of her lap.

“Because in the past, you...”

She spoke that far, and bit her lip. Hesitation colored her expression. Like a child that got lost, Kisa didn't know where to put her gaze.

“.....Pass.”

Mikado was dejected. It shouldn't have made him, because he gained an important victory in the game, but he wanted to hear her words until the end. Not her plotting, scheming words, but rather the words that slumbered deep inside of her. He wanted to know why she looked so painful.

“...Then, the penalty.”

“...Yes.” Kisa didn't protest at all, just half-opening her lips, as she closed her eyes.

She looked like she was waiting for a kiss from her lover. Mikado only enjoyed this sight for a second, before he picked up a piece of the nectar, approaching Kisa's mouth with it.

—What would happen if I just kissed her right now?

A weird voice spoke up inside Mikado's chest. Would she be surprised, push him away? Or...would she accept him? Naturally, it would be Mikado's defeat, but if the two of them could become happy...?

However, Mikado thought thus far, and quickly cut off that train of thought. Defeat was not allowed. No matter how much he wanted the girl, there was no path in the future like this. It was probably just the vain dream induced by this cursed foreign fruit. Hence, Mikado just calmly pushed the fruit inside Kisa's mouth.

“Mmm...” Kisa moaned a bit as she accepted the fruit.

Her cheeks quickly turned red, and she put her hand on the bed to regain her balance. Apparently, the nectar was working properly.

With that, the question game continued. They forgot time, forgot the night, just breathed with the desire to know more about the other,

trying to draw out any small ounce of information. The amount of nectar grew less, as Mikado's reason was about to break down. At this point in time, he completely lost himself in the questions, not knowing what he was asking anymore, merely enjoying this time with Kisa.

Finally, it was Kisa's turn again.

"Mikado...do you think of me...as cute?"

".....!" Mikado hesitated.

Though most of his thought process and senses were damaged by the nectar, his own feelings even forbid him to answer that question. Was it bashfulness, or pride even? Even asking himself, he couldn't come up with the answer. The only thing he was certain about was his answer to the question. Kisa was cute, undoubtedly so. That being said, there was another meaning hidden in her words.

"I'm not asking about your own affection...I want to know if I am charming as a girl...if I even have a chance of winning you over...So please...give me a clear answer..." Kisa pushed her body towards Mikado, looking up at him.

It was a question from the bottom of her soul, completely unrelated to this whole game. Exactly because she sounded this serious, Mikado couldn't help but hesitate. He was unsure if he could really answer her in the state he was in. However, Kisa didn't take his silence quite well.

"How could I be cute, right. Someone honest like Mizuki or Shizukawa-san are much more adorable. I have this horrible personality, bothering everyone...unlike a normal girl."

Watching Kisa in her self-loathing send a sharp pain inside Mikado's chest.

"No, that's..."

He tried to correct her, but didn't make it in time. Having reached her limit most likely, Kisa collapsed onto the sheets. Big droplets of sweat ran down her cheek, as some nectar dropped from her lips. Just

as she stated, being a fragile girl like her, she was at a disadvantage.

Mikado carefully put down her body, and lied down next to her. His head was turning so much it hurt, as just keeping his consciousness took his everything.

“Mikado...” Kisa gazed up at Mikado in a daze, as she snuck into his arms.

Her softness and warmth calmed Mikado down a bit. At the same time, he realized. Even if she acted as a queen most of the time, she was still a girl. As soon as he started gently rubbing her head, she fell asleep, leaking soft breathing sounds.

—Of course you're cute!

Mikado and Kisa were embracing each other, their legs entangling, as they both went into their own world of dreams.

1 Sashimi arranged in the form of a fish

2 3rd-7th Century AD

Chapter 4: Fiance

The bathhouse of the palace was surrounded by beautiful trees and sculptures. Inside the bathtub, plastered with graceful marble, an irregularity occurred. The water surface shook, as the water level started dropping. Like it was drained into the depths of the ocean through a wide open hole, the water disappeared, and two suspicious people appeared.

No, they weren't anybody suspicious, they were Rinka and Kokage. Taking off the wet suit that reached up to their faces, revealing their young, glittering hair. Having left the bath, the stoneplate shifted back to its original place, closing the hole they entered from. Watching this, Rinka muttered.

"To think there was a secret path like this...How did you even find this?"

"He he he~ That was an easy feat! I snuck into the server of the government office, and looked at the blueprints of the palace." Kokage puffed out her chest in arrogance. "On top of that, I used the sonar and our family's beloved Hamu-chan to sniff out the path. I was a bit worried because the route seemed to have broken down, but I'm glad things worked out! We're lucky, because we might have drowned!"

"Don't give me that 'We're lucky!' kind of nonsense! Warn me about that beforehand!" Rinka started shaking in fear of what might have happened.

There was no meaning to it if she had to lay down her life before being able to save Mikado. Her ideal was dying in Mikado's arms, not being washed away with dirty water into the ocean. That being said, Kokage didn't pick up these emotions of Rinka at all, just continuing.

"I'm actually fairly lucky, you know~ I've looked death into the eyes several times, but I never died so far!"

"I wouldn't exactly call that being lucky..."

“...Huh?” All light disappeared from Kokage’s eyes.

With a pale expression, she muttered in a daze.

“But, what if? What if I already died, and I just didn’t realize? I cannot deny that possibility...”

“I will gladly deny that possibility for you!”

Her assumptions were starting to grow more distant from reality, so Rinka quickly stopped her. It’s true that their actions were reckless enough that it wouldn’t be weird if they died in the process, but Rinka didn’t want to admit that.

Kokage just showed a smile.

“Right! I still am alive after all!”

“Indeed you are!”

“Yay! Being alive is great!”

“Congratulations! That’s Kawaraya-san for you!”

“Happy birthday me! Happy birthday!” Kokage started crying out of happiness.

Rinka even gave her an applause. She had no idea why she was congratulating her classmate for being alive still. Today shouldn’t be her birthday first and foremost. But, although this was a dead or alive level of a gamble, Rinka might not have made it this far alone.

“I also cracked the security system of the palace, setting the security cameras up to allow us a safe entrance. If you stick with me, I’ll get you to Mikado-kun safely! Let’s go!”

“Yes! Please do!”

Though Rinka wasn’t exactly in perfect relief, Kokage was undoubtedly the shining ray in this abyss of darkness. She could only follow Kokage as she ran out of the bathing house.

It really was a magnificent and luxurious palace. That being said, it was filled with the subordinates of the Nanjou Family. It reminded Rinka of a fantasy movie that came from overseas, where they invaded the castle of the demon lord, the princess being Mikado.

After giving the stamp of approval, Kokage's navigation worked out just fine, as they didn't run into a single maid. They snuck right through a corridor, past the courtyard filled with roses everywhere, dashing up the nearby stairs. Finally, coming to a path that allowed you to gaze down at the entrance hall, Kokage stopped.

"Rinka-chan, wait a moment."

"...What happened?" Being told with a rarey serious tone, Rinka listened to Kokage.

She felt nervous, worrying that something unexpected occurred.

"Look at that." Kokage pointed at a room at the back of the corridor.

Looking like a giant showcase of some sort, a stuffed animal was locked inside. With sinister-looking eyes, claws like a t-rex, ferocious fangs came out of its mouth. Though it looked like a living being able to walk on two legs, it didn't fall under any category of an animal treading the earth at this current moment. In other words, this sight was—

"A stuffed alien! Not to mention an inhabitant of Epsilon, found in the Orion Constellation! I heard a rumour that they escaped from the NASA research facility in Oklahoma! Ehhh, why is it here?! Is this the reward for me, having survived so long?!"

With a speed unthinkable of Kokage, she dashed towards the large case. Her breathing was rough from the excitement, as her face was glued to the glass. From Rinka's view, Kokage looked more alien than anything else.

"Kawaraya-san! This is too dangerous! This has to be a trap to lure you in!"

"Ehhh, it's not though? Nobody should know that I love aliens."

“Everybody would catch on to that! Let’s hurry!”

“Don’t wanna! I’ll have my bones buried here!”

“You will probably need them in the near future?!”

Rinka tried her hardest to pull Kokage from the case, but she would not let go, as if her life depended on it. Almost like her entire body had become glue, she stuck to the glass.

—What should I do about this...

Something unthinkable appeared in Rinka’s sight. The greatest treasure of all treasures. With a majestic atmosphere to it, it stood in the corner of a room.

A life-sized figurine of Mikado!

Not to mention that the level of detail was vastly superior from the ones Rinka had at home. His expression, the feel of material, the three-dimensionality, everything made it look like Mikado stood right there. Rinka always knew that Mikado belonged in a museum.

“Mikado...sama.....?”

Rinka completely lost herself, just waddling over to the figurine. Even the scent was identical to the real Mikado. Unable to control herself, yet fully understandable for a maiden like her, Rinka just stuffed her face into the Mikado figurine.

“Mm...Haaa...”

She was giving the scent a full-blown testing. Following that, she ran her mouth along the neck of the Mikado figurin.

“Blelelele...”

Using her senses on her tongue, she conducted another testing. This was the real skill of the ‘Mikado Sommelier Rinka’, who even left Kokage shaking in her boots before, indeed!

“What a wonderful Mikado-sama this is...”

Even though they were enemies, Rinka couldn't help but shed a tear in admiration at this perfect piece of art. However, at that moment, a thunderous roar rang out, as she spotted something assault her from the ceiling.

“Rinka-chan?! Careful!”

Though Kokage tried to warn her, it was too late. With a loud bang, a transparent dome of sorts surrounded Rinka.

“Wahhh, Rinka-chan! Return Rinka-chan!”

Kokage hammered on the outside glass, but with her fragile strength, not even a scratch appeared. In a matter of seconds, Rinka was turned into an exhibit just like the Mikado figurine. Though another dome came falling down in front of the weird alien case, Kokage managed to evade that.

“I’ve been done in...Because my love for Mikado-sama is too strong...”

“It’s fine! I thought this might happen, so I brought C4 with me! With that, we can turn this trap into dust, no biggie!” Kokage grinned, as she pulled out the dynamite from her pocket, putting it onto the dome.

“I’ll turn into dust as well if you do that?!”

“Don’t worry. I’m pretty lucky after all! I’ll definitely survive this blast!”

“What about me?!” Rinka panicked.

She felt the danger of losing her life not because of the fiendish Kisa, but rather of an innocent girl like Kokage. Though Kisa held definite ill-intent towards Rinka, she wouldn't date to hurt her, in the possible event that she might get hated by Mikado as a result. But, with the chaotic Kawaraya Kokage, you never knew what could happen next. Even right now, she was about to blow Rinka to dust out of pure good-will. What stopped her in the process were footsteps coming from the corridor.

“Hyaa?! Someone is coming!”

Kokage quickly separated from the dome, jumping out of the window...with the C4 still about to blow up.

“At least run away after you took off the C4!!!”

Rinka prepared herself for her inevitable death. At the same time, who entered the room with the hem of her dress fluttering, raised her chin up in a beautiful manner, was the owner of this palace, the successor of the Empress of Darkness, Nanjou Kisa. Not even twitching at the C4 about to blow up, she just slowly approached it, pulling it off.

—I’m saved...

Well, she was found by the most dangerous enemy around, so she wasn’t exactly safe, but it was better than dying right here, right now. As Rinka was left in this limbo of relief and fear, Kisa spoke up.

“My, that was supposed to catch two rats, but one managed to escape.”

Kisa checked her surroundings, shrugging her shoulders in disappointment.

“So you had caught on to us...” Rinka sent a glare at Kisa.

“Naturally. I knew from the very start that you were just faking your normal life here. That is why I showed you an opening, and let you sneak inside the palace. Though I didn’t expect you to come here through the bath of all places...I was going to take one with Mikado later this night.”

That would have been dangerous. Though Rinka and Kokage had failed to fully save Mikado from this palace, they had at least averted a dangerous scenario.

“What are you planning on doing with me?”

“I wonder? I could use a beauty like you as a stuffed figure... ? I wouldn’t hate a harmless puppet either.”

“Ugh...”

Seeing the devil’s eye see through the dome directly at her, Rinka grit her teeth.

“But, I can’t afford to anger Mikado. I just have to grant you a sweet hell, in the hopes that you will stop fighting against me. In the near future, both your body and heart will belong to me...And that is not a premonition. This future has been written in stone.”

As if she wanted to gently rub Rinka’s head, Kisa put one hand on the outer side of the dome, smiling.

The men’s toilet.

For a young man, it was a brief moment of recess. Like Valhalla was for warriors that had fought until the end of time. Mikado certainly wasn’t bad with women by any means, but being met with their attention on more than a daily basis, even he would crumble. Especially if that girl was Kisa.

Spending every day so far in this castle, being met with her seduction and attacks at any given moment, the only time he could really take a breather was the men’s toilet. That is why Mikado would often, under the pretense of taking a walk, make his way here. Though he was met with suspicion, given the fact that he was using the servants’ toilet, and not his personal one, he might never know what would happen there, making this his only place where he could truly relax, if only for a few moments.

Today again, he sat inside the stall, doing his business.

“Finally found you, Mikado-kun!”

Together with a high-pitched voice, Kokage jumped down from the wall.

“...?! ?!?!?”

Having experienced a sudden surprise attack from a special platoon countless times, even Mikado was a beginner at having a girl invade his private stall inside the toilet. Because of the shock, his body

lagged behind severely, as he was too late to put up any defensive measures. Naturally, he didn't make it in time to hide the decisive parts of his body either.

“Wahhh...Cute.”

“It's not cute!”

Kokage had both her hands on her blushing cheeks, as Mikado felt his body burn up in shame. 'Tis was a shame of a lifetime. Having his most precious member seen by not his wife, not even a lover, but merely by an existence called a classmate. At the same time, said classmate already had her camera in hand.

“I have arrived at the secret of the Kitamikado Family! I have to leave behind a picture! A picture for my future generations—!!”

“Stop iiiit!!!” Mikado jumped up, grabbing Kokage's wrist.

“S-Stop, Mikado-kun...! Don't force yourself onto a girl with your lower half fully exposed...!”

“Don't make it sound so indecent! Although you're perfectly right!”

Having had no time to properly dress himself, Mikado's trousers and belt both fell to the ground once again. Adding Kokage's flushed expression, distorted in panic and embarrassment, if an outsider saw this, Mikado would be arrested in a matter of minutes.

“No need to worry! Whenever I upload this on the internet, I'll make sure to give you proper rights with a [©Kitamikado Mikado] on the picture!”

“Are you trying to socially kill me?!”

“I think you'll only become more popular!”

“How does that work?! Also, why are you here in the first place?! Why would you just sneak inside the men's toilet?!”

“That doesn't matter right now, Mikado-kun!”

“It very much does for me!”

The world is moving according to the information going around.

“There’s more important things going on! Rinka-chan! Rinka-chan! She was taken away by a soldier, brought to jail!”

“What?!”

Out of shock, Mikado’s grasp on her wrist softened. Given that opening, Kokage escaped into the corner of the toilet, as a flash from her camera followed immediately. With such smooth movement, and quick reactions, as well as accuracy, it was yet again apparent how high her skill was. But, Mikado didn’t have the time to care about that.

“Jail...Is Rinka fine?!”

“She’s not fine at all! She’s about to be confined, and turned into a cripple!”

“Cripple?! Would Kisa really go that far...”

“It’s true! I was rushing around to tell Mikado-kun, while running away from the soldiers on guard! Please, Mikado-kun...save Rinka-chan!” Kokage pleaded desperately.

Though one part of Mikado was suspicious about the fact of her continuously pressing the shutter on her camera, her face was serious. She must have run for her life, as her clothes were in a mess, revealing chest and butt.

“Alright...For now, I’ll talk to Kisa. You go hide somewhere, Kokage.”

“Thank you very much! Ah, could I take a commemoration picture before that? With the two of us in the toilet! Here, peace!”

“Seriously, you better stop. We’ll both die at this rate!”

Mikado pushed Kokage out of the stall.

“...W-What’s wrong, you’re making a scary face.”

When Mikado returned to the Queen's bedroom, Kisa was slightly flustered.

"About Rinka. Is it true that she was caught, and locked away in jail?"

As if he didn't allow any evading, Mikado glared directly at Kisa, whose expression grew stiff.

"Who did you hear that from?"

"I'm the one asking the questions here."

"It must be Kawaraya-san...To think she would reach you...I should have finished her back then."

Kisa bore her nails into her arms, gritting her teeth in resentment. So charming, and beautiful, even if the situation wasn't.

"And? Please, be honest with me."

Mikado's worry must have gotten through to Kisa, as she sighed in resignation.

"I did catch her. But, can you blame me? She snuck inside my palace. In here, my voice stands above all else, and I can decide on the punishment, as I am the Queen."

"That's true, but...She's not just anybody. She's a classmate, and my fiance."

"...Fiance, huh." Kisa's voice suddenly dropped.

A mysterious darkness resided in her marvelous eyes.

"I'm sure that she must have come here because she was anxious about me. So please, can't we just see this with more tolerance..."

Mikado started pleading for the defence of his fiance, but that didn't work much against Kisa.

"Don't wanna."

“Kisa!”

Met with Mikado’s outburst, Kisa’s shoulders jolted up. As if she was in pain, she bit her lip.

“Must be nice, being a fiancé. Without having to do anything for it, you get the right from your parents to stay with the person you love. Being supported by your family, and the fiancé’s family, you can say whatever you want, allowed to be as bold as you want. You can attack whenever you want. Mikado would even protect you in a moment like this. Why...why...” Words of rage were directed at the empty space between them.

Even though these words weren’t directed at Mikado by any means, he still felt a sharp pain pierce his chest. As if she laid bare everything inside her heart, without any strategic action to it, he was entranced. He wanted to embrace her with all his might, but he knew that this was not a moment to do so.

“At least let her leave the country. Rinka, Mizuka, and Kawayara aren’t related in our love game. There is no need to wrap them inside of this mess.”

“No...not until the love game comes to an end. If the Kitamikado Family finds out that you are being locked up in this country, they will meddle. And then, we will probably never get the chance to finish the love game.”

“That’s...true. But, please, let us end this here, and continue our game back at school.”

“No...I like it here. Too many people interrupt us all the time. Only enemies that try to break us apart...”

Kisa softly grabbed the hem of Mikado’s shirt, looking up at him in expectation. Her shoulders were shaking ever so slightly. Yet, Mikado had to suppress the desire to just nod along. This had to be her acting once again. Making him a slave to her in the process, to get an advantage in the love game.

If it was just Mikado here, he wouldn’t have been bothered by this.

Rather, being locked in this palace with Kisa alone removed any bother from both their families, so he would have been more happy than anything. However, he could not pull Rinka into this. This was a battle purely between Mikado and Kisa.

“What a shame...Kisa.” Mikado pulled off Kisa’s hand.

The night sky shown through the window was wrapped up in darkness, barely showing the light of the stars here and there. Comparing it to a big city of Japan, there were barely any lights in the capital here, this being the perfect chance to escape.

While Kisa was off taking a bath, Mikado snuck away from the Queen’s bedroom. He had planned a secret meeting with Kokage in the men’s toilet. Right after, guards standing at both sides of the door followed him, with submachine guns readied in their arms, showing that they clearly wouldn’t allow him to escape. That being said, Mikado didn’t bother with the guards too much, and just entered the toilet. Naturally, they didn’t just stop there, and instead stormed after him. Right after, the giant bodies of the two collapsed.

The palms of Mikado’s hands ran up the chin of the two, rendering them unconscious after one attack. In order for them not to create a sound, he softly caught their bodies, laying them on the ground. Using their shirts, he gagged their mouths, covered their eyes, tied them up, and put them into the toilet stalls, after stealing their guns and knives.

“Special reservation for you, go take a good nap.”

“Wawawawa...”

Wondering where that scared voice came from, Mikado found Kokage shaking in a neighbouring stall.

“What’s wrong?”

“Why are you so relaxed about this?! Scary! I knew that Kisa-chan was scary, but you’re not losing against her by any means! You two sure are a good fit!”

“Really...? I mean, if you say so...” Mikado scratched his cheek,

flustered.

“Don’t get embarrassed at that! I wasn’t saying it in a good way! I was talking badly about you!”

“Shh! If you keep screaming like that, the other soldiers will catch on to us. Guide me to Rinka, quickly.”

“Y-Yes! I will devote my body and heart to help you, Mikado-kun!” Without meeting eyes with Mikado, Kokage desperately lowered her head.

A girl from his class had sworn him eternal allegiance. For some reason, Mikado felt a bit sad at that.

“...You don’t have to be that scared of me. I can’t just kill my precious friend, and since these soldiers are Kisa’s subordinates, I finished them off without killing them either.”

“Just the fact that you had the opportunity to kill them makes it scary!”

“That would have been the last hand I would have pulled. Strength without justice is just slaughter. I advocate peace and freedom.”

“Says the guy who beat trained soldiers to a pulp and stuffed them into toilet stalls...?”

From the looks of it, Kokage wouldn’t calm down no matter how much Mikado argued. There was no way to fill the gap of view they had.

Opening the window of the toilet, Kokage pushed out her head, checking the situation. Following that, she turned around to Mikado, and nodded. Mikado returned such, and followed Kokage out of the toilet. Clinging to the outside wall of the palace, the two moved along. Though they were quite a ways above solid ground, Kokage seemed to have been used to him, as she showed no hesitation. Mikado himself wasn’t worried either, as he had been trained in mountain climbing.

In order to avoid the patrolling route of the guards, they entered a

duct from the wall, climbing through, above the roof. Down from the roof, they got under the floor, passing between the beams, diving deeper into the palace. After walking along the zigzag underground path, the two finally made it to a rustical steel door, guarded by a soldier. Watching this scene from the shadows, Kokage muttered.

“Rinka-chan is behind this door.”

“Only one soldier, huh.” Mikado commented with a quiet voice.

“Yes. However, if he presses the button on the wall, shutters come down, and the alarm goes off in the entire palace. On top of that, sleeping gas will be emitted.”

“They sure used all their arsenal.”

“Apparently, this had been a jail for people who committed political crimes. On top of that, it worked as a security wall as well, in the case of rebellion or a coup d’état.”

“I see. You really looked into it.”

Mikado observed the surroundings of the door. The soldier stood right beside the buzzer, and there were no things in the way Mikado could use to sneak along. The second Mikado would try to attack him, the soldier would press the button. In the worst case scenario, a direct attack would fail, which would lead Kokage to be captured as well, making this attempt to escape a failure. Then, the only possible method was to finish this before the guard could even grow wary.

“Kawaraya, wait a second.”

“Eh...”

Even faster than Kokage could give a response, Mikado dashed out of the shadows. The guard caught on to him, and moved his arm over to press the buzzer. However, he didn’t make it in time. The knife still inside the scabbard was thrown right between the eyebrows of the soldier. Letting out a groan, the soldier tried to regain his posture, but was mowed down by Mikado’s fist. Following that, he wrapped his arms around the soldier’s neck, rendering him unconscious.

“Alright, that’s done. We’re good now.”

Mikado turned, only to find Kokage about to dash away.

“Hey, where are you going? I just secured us a safe route.”

“W-Well~ I thought I did my job, so...”

“That’s not true. You are exceptionally important for this. I need you to help me secure an escape route, so come with me.”

“Nooooo! I’m happy that you need me but still...Nooooooo!”

Closing off the screaming Kokage’s mouth, Mikado forcefully pulled her with him. Though he felt bad for basically abducting the girl like this, it’d be troublesome if she got caught in his absence, or even made them get caught. Rinka’s life depended on this.

Mikado tied up the guard, and stole the key card from, opening the large door. Together with a heavy metallic sound, the scenery inside appeared in Mikado’s vision.

“This is...” He swallowed his breath.

Past the door was a room more neat and tidy than he expected. With quite the formidable size, it resembled the house of an average citizen. On top of the luxurious carpet was a glass table, an adorable bed, a chest built inside with fine work. An antique feeling was given through the illumination coming from the ceiling, almost making you forget that you were still underground. Less than some jail, this resembled a hotel room. But, there was a single irregularity, that sadly was the biggest of them all. This room was filled...with Mikado.

Naturally, not Mikado himself. He wasn’t cloned to stand around in there, but rather life-sized figurines that made you think he was cloned, taking various poses. There were those just sitting around, those lying sideways. Recordings of Mikado’s filled the silence, overlapping even. In the middle of it all, lying on the bed as she hugged a Mikado figurine...was his own fiancée, who would normally act as the perfect Yamato Nadeshiko, Shizukawa Rinka.

“Haaa...Mikado-sama...How gallant...Wonderful...Mikado-sama...”

Drool ran down her cheek, as she was breathing heavily in arousal. Though a certain part of him was entranced by this sight, the shock was far greater.

“Rinka! Pull yourself together!” Mikado shook the girl’s shoulders.

“Eh...is this... a new-type Mikado-sama? It can even move...? And his skin feels so real...does it have an in-built heating system? ...This is the best!”

“I’m not a new-type! I’m the original! I’m the actual Kitamikado Mikado!”

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa—?!”

Rinka let out an ear-splitting shriek, jumping up in shock. Her face became pale, sweat running down her cheeks like a waterfall.

“Y-You’re wrong! I definitely did not have my heart stolen by these figurines! I would never sleep in the arms of a Mikado-sama hugging pillow either! I even learned to fall asleep without having my entire room filled with pictures of you!”

“...? I mean, that makes sense, doesn’t it. This is what Kisa did to brainwash you. Though I don’t know how that would brainwash you in the first place!”

Rinka nodded like she had never done before in her life.

“Yes! Yes! It is just as you say, Mikado-sama! Everything was Kisa-san’s work...Kisa-san’s brainwashing! I have not the slightest bit of interest in these figurines...Ah, but, could I maybe take one home with me?!”

“Pull yourself together, Rinka! The brainwashing hasn’t disappeared yet!” Mikado grabbed Rinka’s shoulders yet again.

The young lady of the Shizukawa Family, with ancient and honorable origin, had now been led astray, her soul tainted. Mikado couldn’t hold back his tears at that fact. Though she had been imprisoned before, was something of this level really necessary? Mikado remembered a strong desire to avenge Rinka, who’s heart had been

twisted in the face of this. At the same time, Kokage raised her hand.

“U-Um...Mikado-kun...? You know, Rinka-chan is actually like this all the ti—”

“Kawaraya-san!”

“Eek?!”

Glared at by Rinka, Kokage jumped into the air. She smiled, but her eyes weren't.

“What's wrong, Kawaraya?”

“N-No, nothing at all! Everyone is scary! I want to go home!”

Kokage immediately shut her mouth. She sealed off her ears as well, just humming to herself. Mikado made a mental note to fix that attitude of running away from reality.

“I agree that we have to go back soon. It's been a few days since they last heard news from us. The chances of chaos reigning in Japan is high.”

Rinka nodded at Mikado's words. She carried a small miniature figure in her hands.

“The Kitamikado and Shizukawa Family must be looking for us by now...If only they don't catch on that this is the Nanjou Family's doing...”

“The longer we take, the higher the chances that some sort of conflict could break out, so we better hurry.”

Kisa should understand that risk as well, yet she continued to prolong this. Maybe she panicked at the thought of Mikado's pre-honeymoon to such a level, as she planned to finish their game right here.

“Follow me! If the guard doesn't give his regular support, the security will be alarmed! We have to escape before that!”

Mikado and Rinka quickly dashed after Kokage. Running up the stairs

from the underground, they escaped through the kitchen door to the courtyard, between the flowerbed. They apparently hadn't caught on to Mikado's and Rinka's disappearance, as there were barely any guards patrolling. They were busy yawning loudly, standing around in boredom.

They seemed to have been locals, as they muttered words in a different language, probably the official language of this kingdom. Treading on the irrigation ditch, they ran inside the cold pipe. It was pitch-black, with absolutely no moonlight to shine their way. The bottom of the ditch was equally dark, not allowing anybody to know what they were even walking on. Mikado had no trouble treading on the wrong course, and as a sneaking pro that Kokage was the same for her, but Rinka was staggering frequently.

"Rinka. Hold on to my arm."

"Y-Yes!"

Rinka clung to Mikado's arm with all her might. Though the soft sensation assaulting him had Mikado flush, he didn't have the time to enjoy this sensation. He had to concentrate for the moment, getting Rinka out of this place safely. Once they made it through the canal, they arrived at a wasteland outside the town. The wind blew fiercely, as a rustic stone stood in the open. No soldiers or citizens around.

"This is..."

"Outside...the capital?"

Mikado and Rinka observed their surroundings.

"Yes! In order to avoid any security routes, passing that canal was the safest route. Sorry that you ended up all wet and drenched."

"No, you don't have to apologize. Your range of information is as crazy as always."

"Ehehe, I am the successor of the Kowaraya Family after all!" Kokage twisted her body in embarrassment.

If it revolved around small maneuvering, Kokage excelled greatly.

Though that was slightly dampened, well quite a bit in reality, by all her misses, the chances of her making it big was quite high.

“Though there was the promise of making you the Executive Intelligence Officer, but before that, I’d love to have you work right next to me.”

“Next to Mikado-kun?! As your secretary?!”

“Mikado-sama?! I was wondering why my husband would return home late, but as it turns out, you were raising a secret child with your secretary?!”

“Eh, eh, is that what’s going to happen?!” Kokage grew excited at Rinka’s fantasies.

“It won’t! I was talking about borrowing Kwaraya’s strength to change Japan for the better!”

The girl seemed to have gotten the wrong idea caused by Rinka’s nonsense, so Mikado denied it with all his might. Naturally, Kokage was cute without a doubt, but he had no plans on giving her a higher position than close to him as an aide.

Suddenly sirens could be heard coming from the palace, leaving Rinka in shock. Apparently, they had caught on to Mikado’s disappearance.

“What should we do now?”

“If we get to the airport...they’ll probably catch us. Apparently, official institutions are being controlled by the Nanjou Family.”

Mikado started thinking. He did have a wallet and credit card with him, but if he had to use it, Kisa would be able to track them right away, so nothing gained there. Staying outside for a longer time would prove fatal.

“I prepared a smartphone with erased personal information, so use this. There’s a route to the nearest border there. Ah, don’t use any calls or messages, okay? They would be able to track you!”

Kokage handed Mikado an old-school smartphone. Mikado accepted this, and checked the app with the map.

“You’re not coming with us, Kokage?”

“There is something I have to take care of here! Until I uncover every secret in this experiment of the Nanjou Family, I cannot go home yet!” Her eyes were sparkling.

She must have been scared, but the interest got the better of her. Though Mikado was worried she might ruin herself with that, it was probably in the blood of her family.

“Alright. Thanks for everything. You better make it home safe.”

“Same here! Let’s meet at school again!”

Mikado and Rinka separated from Kokage, as she waved in joy. Taking Rinka by the hand, Mikado walked through the night wasteland.

Inside the outer garden, Kisa nervously walked in circles, cursing into her smartphone.

“Sigma! You still haven’t found Mikado and Shizukawa-san?!”

From the speaker came Sigma’s tired voice.

「We sent them in every direction, but still haven’t found them. Apparently, they hacked our system, as we have traces right before they disappeared.

“It has to be Kawaraya-san...I will teach her once we get back to Japan...so that she learns her lesson...”

She cursed up towards the night sky, but that wouldn’t resolve the situation either. At the same time, the soldiers gathered around her watched over Kisa in silence. Kisa put her hand on a nearby statue, narrowing her eyebrows.

“Spread all the sleeping gas we have in the entire country, or set free that new virus! Let all the citizens go down once, and look for them

in the pile of collapsed people”

「That'll cause a rebellion for sure! Keeping the virus under control is far too difficult, and the use of sleep gas would result in accidents. We cannot turn the residents against us, and you should know that better than anybody.”

“But...but...” Kisa tightly gripped her smartphone, panicking.

If it was just Rinka running away, she wouldn't have to rush like this. But, they were two people, two fiances running away. With them being chased by the enemy, love will bloom between the two. Just by imagining this, Kisa couldn't stand still.

「For crying out loud...Whenever it comes to the shitty Kitamikado brat, your IQ drops to the single digits...」

“It doesn't. I am a genius, at any time!”

「I don't care! Can you take this a bit more calmly?!」

“I would if I could!”

The two had a verbal barrage, when Mizuki came in, swooping the smartphone.

“It's fine, it's fine, Shii-chan! I'll do something about Onee-chan!”

“H-Hey!”

Kisa tried to retrieve the smartphone, but Mizuki skillfully evaded her as she roared in laughter.

“That's why, you do your own job, Shii-chan! Catch Kokage-chan, and have her spit out the escape roof that Mikado-kun will take!”

「The young Kawaraya lady...I'd be able to catch her if she tried cracking our system one more time, but there hasn't been any access since then. She might have run away already...」

“I think Kokage-chan is still inside the capitol.”

「Why is that? The capital should be the place with the highest security.」

Sigma voiced her doubts.

“I mean, it’s Kokage-chan. I doubt she’d leave such an interesting country right away. I figure she’s looking around the capital to get some information. Like the governmental office, any archives, you know.”

「I see...That’s Kisa-sama’s younger sister for you. I’ll look into it. You take care of Kisa-sama!」

“Understoodies~”

Mizuki cut the phone call without Kisa’s consent, returning the phone to her. She might not look like a clever girl most of the time, there were incidents where Kisa grew worried. Worried that Mizuki might just be playing the idiot. That she was waiting in the shadows to find an opening on Kisa’s end to steal Mikado from her. She had the genes of the Nanjou Family in her, and as she loved these sorts of games, she should certainly be capable.

“Alright then, all you soldiers! We’ll start our search as well!” Mizuki stood in front of the soldiers, giving orders in a nonchalant voice. “I’ll send you information about the target on your terminals! By the way, I recommend restricting the boy’s movement, because the girl can’t do much on her own! No hurting them, but using tranquilizer guns or tear-gas bombs are just fine!”

She even finished making up an operation, with no hesitation whatsoever. She probably was aware that Mikado would forgive Mizuki mostly everything, even if she was angry at Kisa’s actions.

“The person who managed to catch the two...Will get the position of head of the guards, as well as a giant mansion, so do your best!”

Together with Mizuki’s announcement, the color in the men’s eyes changed, as they scattered. Mizuki was running after them with a tranquilizer gun.

“Hide and seek! Together with Mikado-kun and everybody! I’ll

definitely find him!”

In the sight of the humming Mizuka, there was no seriousness. She just shot bullets into the sky like a lunatic. Maybe her little sister really was an idiot.

A backside alley behind the masonry houses. On the ropes, laundry was currently in the process of drying. What could be heard were the screams of the soldiers, the gunshots, as well as the army boots trampling on the ground, as well as bikes whirling up the dust in the street.

“Rinka! Over here!”

“Y-Yes!”

Mikado pulled Rinka’s hand, escaping from the pursuit of the soldiers. In a situation where they couldn’t use money or any means of communication, it took them three days to the border of the country. Right as they made it, they were greeted by a large amount of soldiers.

—Seems like they were waiting for us.

Running along on uneven ground, Mikado cursed. Kokage must have already fallen into the hands of the enemy. Any other way, they wouldn’t have been able to figure out their escape route. Though he was worried about Kokage’s safety, Kisa probably wouldn’t dare to do anything to her classmate. Even Rinka had been safe, albeit in confinement.

Mikado dashed into a nearby room, closing the door behind him. Beyond the door, he immediately heard the soldiers run by. Rinka was shivering in fear, as she clung to Mikado’s chest. Her shoes had turned messy, her hair riddled with dirt and sweat from the long travels.

Mikado felt his heart creak, tightly embracing her to give her just the smallest amount of relief. Whilst feeling her heartbeat, the screams of the soldiers grew more distant. The two let out faint sighs, as the tension vanished from their bodies.

Imminent danger had disappeared, but Rinka didn't dare to separate from Mikado. At the same time, Mikado couldn't push her away either. Because Mikado was the reason she had to go through this.

"...Sorry. I wrapped you up into this mess with Kisa, even though you're completely unrelated."

"I am not fully unrelated. I was the one who entered the palace on my own, and I decided to stand my ground against Kisa-san. Since she was trying to steal you away from me, I had to make up my mind." She tried to speak with confidence, but her face was devoid of any color.

Both her physical endurance, and willpower, they were at their limit.

"Still, let me apologize. But, I will not allow them to hurt you in any way. I will protect you at all costs, although it might be a bit hard to believe me...in a situation like this..."

Rinka shook her head.

"I believe you...You had promised the same thing in the past before."

"In the past...?"

"...You don't remember?"

"N-No..."

Met with a saddened gaze from Rinka, Mikado panicked. He desperately sought through his memories, trying to find any sort of information. Mikado and Rinka had known each other since they were small children, so they had talked a lot.

"Could you give me a hint?"

"I will not."

"Anything is fine."

"Not even anything. Forgetting the important promise with a maiden, you are a cruel person Mikado-sama." With a pouting expression,

Rinka pushed away Mikado.

Though she had a hurtful gaze, she had her cheeks puffed out, acting a Yamato Nadeshiko even in anger. Mikado panicked even further. Someone who called themselves the young man of the Kitamikado Family could count the promises they had made in their life until the end of their days. Even if that was a fake promise during one's childhood, that fact didn't change. Even more so if it was an important promise, just as Rinka made it sound. Yet, the same Rinka now gave a small giggle.

"It's the first time I've seen Mikado-sama panic like this. For this, I will forgive you just this once."

"...I have no excuses." Mikado lowered his head.

Rinka lined up next to him, resting her back against the wall. In this dimly-lit room, her sparkling eyes were looking far into the distance.

"When we were still younger, I had been an introvert of sorts."

"Right. When we just, you would always hide behind your parents, unable to bring up a proper conversation. It's taken a long time until we managed to talk."

"That...was because I was too flustered..." Rinka spoke, as she started blushing.

She coughed once to continue.

"Because of this personality, I had been made fun of at school, or high society. Back when we first met each other, the kids of my age said bad things about me, so I ran away."

"Yeah, I remember that. I was worried because you were crying this entire time, so I called out to you."

"So you remember the beginning of our love! I am happy more than enough now!" Rinka's voice grew more delighted.

"Beginning of our love...? Is that really it...?"

“Naturally. It is the first page written in our story.”

“I-I see...”

Mikado felt embarrassed. At the same time, he felt a shiver run down his spine.

“I told Mikado-sama about my problems, and that I wanted to stay at home from school, and the parties. To that, you said ‘You are more beautiful than anybody else. Be confident, and hold your chest high. If so, nobody will dare to talk badly about you anymore. If something happens, I will protect you at all costs’ to me.”

“N-Now that you mention it...I did say that...”

The memories came rushing back, making Mikado writhe in agony. He probably lost his cool back then, having such a beautiful girl in front of him, but how much more can you play cool, really. This part of his dark past, he would have rather not heard again.

Rinka put both her hands in front of her chest, and continued.

“Back then, I had an intuition. That you would be my future husband. That I would not fall for any other man. And then, I asked you ‘Would you make me your bride?’ subconsciously.”

“W-What did I answer?” Mikado asked, scared to know the answer.

His heartbeat was shaking up and down. His past self was too careless, so Mikado could not imagine the answer he could have given.

“What would you do if I said you had answered with ‘Alright, I will make you my partner’? Would you marry me then...?” Rinka gazed up at Mikado as if to test him.

Mikado felt like he was standing at a cliff. His past was catching up with him, driving him into a corner. Maybe the winner had been decided before the love game even started. That being said, even if it was a promise from years back, even if he were to regret it for the rest of his life, he had to keep this promise. As the successor of the Kitamikado Family, no, as a human first and foremost, he had to not

stray from his path.

“That’s...I can only do as I said back then.”

“Even if I were to lie for my own convenience?”

“I believe in you, Rinka.”

“Even though you don’t even love me?”

“This and that are different. I still think that you are a wonderful woman, and not someone who would scoop that low. Because...you are perfect.”

This evaluation came from the bottom of his heart. Though Mikado’s heart was already devoted to Kisa, he had no doubt that the person who received the right to marry Rinka in the future was a lucky fellow.

“...You shouldn’t be trusting women too much like that.” Rinka continued with a lonesome tone. “Though it pains me to say it, that wasn’t it. Instead, you said the following.” She took a deep breath, starting her speech.

“ ‘We will never know what the future holds. I will polish myself to become a man worthy of you. You will do the same for me. Once we’ve grown, and become worthy for each other, the heavens will surely bind us together’. ”

“I said such pompous things back then?!”

Mikado doubted his ears, but Rinka nodded.

“You did indeed. ‘We will never know what the future holds. I will polish myself to become a man’—”

“I heard you the first time! Don’t repeat it, or I will die from the embarrassment!”

“Why are you embarrassed about this? They were the most wonderful words I had either heard in my life. Naturally, Mikado-sama is always the most admirable person, but you were like a Messiah to me back

then.”

“I doubt a messiah would sound so smug...”

Whether this was a messiah, the devil in disguise, or just an embarrassed young boy didn't matter, because Mikado would writhe in agony from now on every time he goes back to remember this dark past.

“After that, I worked my utmost to become a woman worthy of you. Even during my harsh studies, I have always walked whilst watching your back. If you had gotten another fiance during that time, I would have done everything in my power to steal you from her.”

There was no hesitation in her words. She might seem like she had the exact opposite atmosphere of Kisa, but if it was for her own goal, she would become someone else entirely. And now, she rested her body against Mikado's. Grabbing his overwear, she looked up at him.

“Did I become...a woman worthy of Mikado-sama...?” Her voice was shaking in uncertainty.

Her sweet, beautiful eyes were looking only at Mikado. Mikado couldn't deny that her body had grown into a beautiful woman.

“I do not see anything lacking in you that would stop you from being the partner of the Kitamikado Family's successor.”

“You sure chose your words.”

“.....”

He was seen right through. Her seductive eyes saw right inside Mikado's heart.

“Am I a worthy woman for Mikado-sama?”

She wouldn't allow Mikado to evade the question.

“.....I cannot deny it. Everything about you is beautiful.”

“Mikado-sama...” Rinka's cheeks turned red ever so slightly, as she

pressed her forehead on his chest.

“But, I—”

“You have loved Kisa-san this entire time. I am well aware of that.”

“Yeah. That’s why, I can’t—”

“But...at least put my feelings on the scale. Losing before the actual battle...would be too sad.” Her heart-wrenching words stabbed right into Mikado’s chest.

Was it really the right choice to reject her feelings from the start. Was it really fair to avert his eyes from her efforts, which she had done solely for him. Mikado didn’t know. He couldn’t shake her away.

“I love you, Mikado-sama.”



Rinka wrapped her hands around Mikado's back, clinging to him. Her slender shoulders, her seductive breath, her soft body, everything sought to become one with Mikado. As she looked about to collapse, Mikado embraced her. The atmosphere grew intense. In this place, where Kitamikado Family, Nanjou Family, Shizukawa Family, all of it didn't matter, a young boy and girl were together. In this blank world, with no premise to stop them, Mikado found himself

becoming aware that he didn't push away Rinka.

"Why...are you afraid...?"

Rinka's voice was about to melt away in the heat between them, as she reached out for his cheek, running along his skin, caressing him. With a shiver running down Mikado's skin, he grit his teeth.

"Rinka...this is..."

The point to stop this situation was a distant gunshot. Mikado immediately embraced Rinka, pushing her to the ground.

"W-What...?"

"...Quiet." Mikado covered the lips of Rinka beneath him.

Rinka's hips jolted up, as Mikado's palm grew dampened from her luscious lips. From the outside, he heard Mizuki's loud voice.

"Mikado-kun! I know you're hiding in there, so come out! If not, I'll use an RPG, and blow you away with the house in one!"

"RPG?!"

A great weapon of destruction, the rocket launcher. Mikado was flabbergasted at the appearance of this word.

"M-Mizuki-sama! Using an RPG would be too much!"

"The inside will become a hamburger factory!"

"You will be killed by Kisa-sama, you know?!"

"Don't worry! Mikado-kun will be able to evade that! I just wanted to fire a rocket launcher once, you know!"

She sounded like a tourist eerie to see new spots. With the teachings of the Kitamikado Family, Mikado might be able to evade a shot like that, but he had Rinka with him. At the same time, he heard a great amount of footsteps outside. Without a doubt, they held a numerical advantage.

“Mikado-sama...” Rinka shook inside Mikado’s arms.

With the appearance of a young girl in discomfort, Mikado felt his chest tighten up. Without realizing it, he spoke up.

“I don’t know yet if putting your feelings on the scales is the right choice or not.”

“.....” Rinka bit her lip.

“However, I want to protect you. No matter what happens, just like I promised all these years back. No matter how our relationship may change, I don’t want to make you suffer. Those feelings will not shake...Is that, no good?”

“It truly is not good.”

Mikado hanged his head after hearing Rinka’s cold words.

“But...I still am happy.” Rinka muttered.

Her eyes were looking at Mikado, at her love. Her face was beet red, as she had trouble holding back the tears.

“Then, let’s go!”

“Kya?!”

Mikado grabbed Rinka’s hand, kicking the door to dash outside. The soldiers all readied their guns in surprise, but Mikado snuck past them, kicking away, doing whatever needed to get out of this place. Having become like a war god, there was nobody who could stop Mikado.

He went on to steal a nearby military car, had Rinka sit on the passenger seat, and drove off. The soldiers were following them like a horde of spiders. An RPG shot even came flying after them, but Mikado skillfully dodged that. An explosion followed, with dust being whirled up. Rinka grew pale.

“Mikado-sama?! You had a license?!”

“I’ll get it soon! For now, we’ll drive to the border!”

Together with the roaring engine, the two fiances escaped from this town.

Epilogue

Quickly after they made it across the border, Mikado and Rinka managed to safely contact their families, getting a new passport and visa from the nearest embassy. Naturally, saying they were locked up in this country would end up in a disaster, so they just made up a convenient lie of having taken the wrong plane.

Seeing Rinka's condition, Mikado pressed for an immediate return, but she declined. This time, she wanted to enjoy their trip, as her exhaustion was blown away like it had never existed in the first place. Mikado felt bad for bothering her, unable to decline her request, as they went on the trip, returning around a week later, and their Sousei Academy life restarted.

But, the relationship between Mikado and the others definitely did not stay the same.

“Mikado-sama! Good morning!”

Together with an energetic voice, two arms wrapped around Mikado's back, who sat on his seat. Hitting the back of his head were two soft bulges. On top of that, the sweet scent of flowers arrived at his nose.

“...Morning.”

Once Mikado heightened his view, he spotted Rinka, smiling down at him. Though he should rebuke this kind of intimate greeting, he couldn't. With the promise the two exchanged, and Rinka's feelings becoming apparent, Mikado found trouble in pushing her away. At the same time, the classmates were watching this in great excitement.

“Shizukawa-san is so bold!”

“Aren't they a bit too close?”

“What happened while they were off school?!”

“They went on a trip together, right?!”

Surrounded by curious onlookers, Rinka blushed, as she put both hands on her cheeks.

“That is...well, we did a lot. Sleep together, sleep together, and sleep together.”

A roar filled the room following these words.

“We did things besides sleeping as well, didn’t we?!”

Mikado tried to clear up the horrible misunderstanding.

“Correct, we did a lot of other things in bed, besides sleeping.”

“Does that mean?!”

“Rinka-chan is amazing!”

“She’ll be a mother next year!”

The female students were getting excited to a level where they collapsed. With the misunderstanding growing even worse, Mikado was at his wit’s end. For a trip between fiances, organized by both families, actions like these might very well happen, but not in this case. Whilst spending a long amount of time with a beauty above beauties like Rinka, Mikado still managed to keep his virginity. Yet, the classmates had already decided the facts for themselves.

Not to mention that Rinka brought over her own chair, putting it right next to Mikado’s, and rested her body against his. With her arm wrapped around his, it looked like they weren’t there to study for the future, but rather on a date. Now Mikado definitely had to warn her.

“Rinka...You should probably hold back a bit...”

“Mikado-sama, you promised that you would protect me. Whenever I would be suffering, you would come to my aid, right?”

“I did say that...”

"I am so lonely right now I can't help it. If I can't touch Mikado-sama, I might just die. Are you fine with that, Mikado-sama?" A rare gaze of Rinka.

Though he didn't want to, Mikado's heart skipped a beat. Nothing was wrong with her words. If Rinka said she was suffering, then Mikado had to fulfill his promise. Even if that was long in the past.

"...Do what you want."

"Yes! I will do just that!" Rinka heightened her grip on Mikado's arm even further, rubbing her head against his shoulders.

Mikado looked around the classroom in order to find something he could distract himself with, when something horrifying entered the room.

"Why...Why...!" Kisa glared at him like he had cheated on his wife.

Her hands were shaking of rage, as she held tightly to the student bag. In her eyes, pure killing intent resided.

"Wawawawawa...this is the end...the world is going to explode... Game over for everyone..." Mizuki shivered in fear.

"I-I'm sorryyyyyy!" Kokage apologized with tears in her eyes, jumping out of the window.

Kisa took steps inside the classroom, slowly approaching Mikado's seat.

—I might die today.

Mikado felt a horrible premonition.

Behind the gym hall. Having been called here, Mikado stood facing Kisa. This was the first time they met each other face to face after they came back. Mikado kept himself wary, in case she had set up some trap, or an ambush by her private squad. Yet, Kisa only spoke up, with a voice about to disappear so faint.

"...Don't get too close to that girl."

“.....Huh?”

Unexpectedly weak words from someone who had previously abducted him to a distant country. Kisa formed fists with both her hands, casting her face downward.

“I know that I went too far. If you tell me to apologize, then I’ll do it. Just...please, don’t hate me.”

“Um...that’s...”

Her words were fully outside of Mikado’s expectations. He thought he would be met by her rage, but she felt more scared than anything. Mikado had the faint feeling that she might actually be a coward, using the whole act with the far-away country because she couldn’t be honest. That’s why Mikado had a desire to test her, to be a bit more bold, as he asked.

“Kisa...Would you find it hard if I hated you?”

“Eh...?!” Kisa’s shoulders jolted up.

After a short moment of silence, she slowly, so tenderly, nodded. Looking like she was embarrassed to the point where she wanted to run away. Her expression was filled with many different feelings. At the same time, Mikado’s heart started to beat faster as well. He took a step forward, gulping in preparation of his next words.

“So, does that mean—”

Breaking up his words were their two smartphones vibrating at the same time. Vibrating heavily as if it was an emergency call, Mikado quickly took it out, to see what the ruckus was about. Shown on the screen was the scene of the Nanjou sisters exchanging words.

Mizuki was laying on the bed, showing a teasing grin.

‘This time, your beloved Mikado-kun might really get stolen by Rinka-chan after all!’

‘Shut up! I’m trying to think of something so that it doesn’t end up like that!’ Kisa ran her fingers through her hair in a burst of anger.

‘So you’re not going to deny the fact that you love him~?’

‘Tease me some more and I’ll pull out every tooth in your rotten mouth!’

“W-What...is this?” Mikado was bewildered.

It was a scenery too real to be fake. But, for some reason, it was projected on his own smartphone. And, if this was real...then Kisa held romantic feelings for Mikado. If he could use this as proof, the love game would be his win, and yet, just at the possibility of Kisa loving him completely threw him off. He wanted to see if this was true right away.

However.

At the exact same time, yet another scenery was shown on Kisa’s smartphone. It was a scene that happened in a small house inside the Kingdom of Glorious.

With a beet red face, Rinka buried her face inside Mikado’s chest.

‘You have loved Kisa-san this entire time. I am well aware of that.’

‘Yeah. That’s why, I can’t—’

‘But...at least put my feelings on the scale. Losing before the actual battle...would be too sad.’



Kisa had found definite proof herself, as Mikado felt his chest tighten up. With a face distorted by confusion, Kisa looked at him. Her face, ears, neck, everything was colored in crimson red. Her big, round eyes gazed at Mikado only. From her lovable lips, faint words escaped.

“Mikado...do you...like me?”

Afterword

Hello there, it's Amano, who can't help but be envious of Mikado.

Can't I be reincarnated soon? How much do I have to do to earn myself a harem of four beautiful girls in swimsuits? I don't know. I feel like the best I'll get is a mushroom at the side of the road.

Yesterday, I went on a trip to eat yakiniku because it was on sale. Back then, I spotted a suspicious group, and as it turns out, they were a group of four high school girls. Set aside the other high school boys, high school girls at a yakiniku all-you-can-eat? And they were cute. Cute as they gulped down this meat. It was a fresh, comforting scenery, but I wonder why. The meat started to look like Mikado himself, as the four girls were fighting for him...Well, I might just be tired, to be honest.

Anyway, volume 4 is the volume where Mikado is getting gulped up by the girls. Was he eaten? Or did he make it out alive? Make sure to read the main volume to find out.

Naturally, as you might have expected, kakao-sensei has given us wonderful illustrations of the girls in swimsuits. Overflowing with eroticism, showing their beautiful skin, I can't stop looking at them. Thank you very much, kakao-sensei!

Additionally, my editor, the people from GA Publishing, everyone who has been involved with the printing, thank you very much for helping me out yet again. To my beloved readers, your voices have reached me, giving me motivation to keep writing.

I have many interesting novels and game scenarios planned for this year, so I'm thinking of using Twitter more frequently to keep you up on date.

Please treat me well this year again, and until the way we meet again

9th of January, 2019. Amano Seiju.

Credits

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